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WEEKEND

Two Britons among 484 hostages

SAS flies in to join siege of embassy

By Gabriella Gamini in Lima, David Adams and Michael Evans

AN SAS team arrived in Lima to link up with American security experts in the Peruvian capital, as the 484 hostages inside the Japanese Ambassador's residence settled in for a third night with their 30 heavily-armed captors.

The six SAS men were sent as advisers to John Illman, the British Ambassador, but their expertise could be used in the event of a decision to storm the besieged residence.

The Peruvian authorities were consulted about the SAS involvement, although there was apparently no specific request for assistance from the Lima Government. The team from the SAS headquarters in Hereford includes experts in the use of explosives and a sniper team commander.

Several experienced hostage negotiators from Scotland Yard also arrived in Lima, as a number of countries offered assistance to help bring the siege to a peaceful conclusion.

The United States is understood to have sent a team from its Delta Force special forces unit which is modelled on the SAS.

The US Embassy in Lima set up a special hostage crisis centre, manned by FBI agents. A small number of Americans are among the captives inside the Japanese residence. Only by a stroke of good luck did Peru's President Fujimori avoid becoming a hostage himself in the well-planned guerrilla assault. Señor Fujimori had been due to attend Tuesday's reception but was late returning from a trip to the provinces.

Army troops and police surrounded the compound yesterday which is located behind a 15ft concrete wall topped by a 10ft electric fence. Police sharpshooters patrolled nearby roofs.

Negotiations moved slowly. The talks so far have been sporadic and there have been uneasy radio communications between an edgy-sounding rebel leader who calls himself "Comandante" Evaristo, and an equally nervous Peruvian Education Minister, Domingo Palermo.

The hostages, who include 12 ambassadors, complained of tension and overcrowding, although the Red Cross was allowed to deliver food and medical supplies to the residence.

Marc Cortal, an International Red Cross doctor who was allowed inside the compound, said the hostages appeared calm and healthy despite the threat from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels to begin executing them one by one.

Mediation efforts between the Peruvian Government and the guerrillas were being assisted by the International Red Cross. Anthony Vincent, the Canadian Ambassador who was one of five diplomats released by the guerrillas on Wednesday, also re-entered the residence yesterday to pass on messages.

The Peruvian Cabinet met in emergency session for the second time in two days, and a top-level delegation from Japan, led by Yukihito Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, arrived in Lima to join in discussions. The hostages were reported to be crammed into two halls on the first and second floors of the large embassy residence with very little water and food. Among those still held captive are high-ranking diplomats, Japanese businessmen and top Peruvian security officials. Two Britons are also being held — Roger Church, deputy chief of misssion of the British Embassy, and David Griffiths, a businessman.

The Tupac Amaru guerrillas want 400 of their members — including Victor Polay, their leader — released from various prisons in Peru.

They also want the release of Lori Berensen, a 27-year-old New Yorker who was last year sentenced to life imprisonment for taking part in a foiled attempt by the Tupac Amaru to storm the congress in Lima.

In addition, they have called on Señor Fujimori to reverse his liberal economic reforms and expel all foreign investors from Peru, and they are demanding money and safe passage to the Amazonian jungle in eastern Peru.

Heribert Woeckel, the German Ambassador who was also freed on Wednesday, said the rebels seemed "calm but very determined".

The rebels infiltrated the party dressed as waiters, carrying champagne and hors d'oeuvres. They set off explosions and exchanged gunfire with police for almost an hour. Two hostages and a rebel were reported wounded.

Proven winners, page 11

AP

Snipers watch the Japanese embassy compound in Lima where the hostages spent their second night

Man held for questioning over murder of Megan and Lin Russell

By Richard Duce

MAGISTRATES last night granted police more time to interrogate a 35-year-old unemployed man arrested for questioning over the murders of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan.

Robert Friar can now be held until 11pm tonight before police decide whether to charge him with the double murder, release him, or ask a court for a final extension of six hours.

Mr Friar was arrested at a three-bedroomed council house in Goodnestone, near Canterbury, at 7am on Wednesday. He has been interviewed before about the killings of Mrs Russell, 45, and Megan, six, when he voluntarily agreed to answer police questions. He is being held at Chatham police station.

The detention of Mr Friar, who lives with his mother Maggie, a cleaner, is the first arrest in the hunt for the killer who battered Mrs Russell and her daughter to death with a hammer as they walked home from Goodnestone Primary School five months ago.

Josie Russell, nine, survived the attack and amazed doctors with her powers of recovery. Last night, Mr Friar made a brief appearance before Medway magistrates in Chatham, where police were granted a further 30 hours to question him until 11pm tonight.

Mr Friar lives in the vilage where the Russell children went to school.

The girls, accompanied by their mother, walked from Goodnestone to their home in the neighbouring village of Nonington twice a day.

Outside Mr Friar's home yesterday stood a battered brown Ford Escort. In the rear window was a sticker which read: "This car is being driven by Robert, ex boozer, ex lover, ex convict, ex mafia."

A neighbour said: "He is a nice boy. If anyone needs any help, he is always there. We are all old age pensioners round here and he always helps us out. He is always pleasant and polite. He loves children and he is always playing with them."

Josie, who was badly brain damaged in the attack, this week received a Children of Courage award from the Duchess of Kent. Although she is still unable to speak more than a few words she has described, by using models, how the killer stopped his car in a narrow country lane and beat all three with a hammer, leaving her for dead.

Greer's lobby company to be wound up

THE lobbying company at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy is going into voluntary liquidation (Andrew Pierce writes).

Ian Greer Associates, once one of the most powerful companies in the political lobbying industry, is expected to be wound up next month.

Keith Goodman, a partner in Leonard Curtis accountants, is investigating the collapse of the business, which at one stage enjoyed a £3 million annual turnover.

Mr Greer and Neil Hamilton, the Tory MP, issued libel proceedings against *The Guardian* over the cash-for-questions allegations. But they withdrew days before the case was due to go ahead in October.

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Bhutto's husband charged with her brother's murder

From Zahid Hussain in Karachi

THE husband of Pakistan's deposed Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, has been charged with the murder of her brother, Murtaza.

The move is a serious blow for Miss Bhutto, six weeks before a parliamentary poll that is likely to decide her political future. Asif Ali Zardari was arrested on November 5 after his wife was dismissed and her Government disolved by President Leghari on charges of corrupton and misrule.

Sindh High Court Bench earlier yesterday had declared Mr Zardari's preventive detention illegal and ordered his release. But before he was freed, he was served with a warrant on the murder charge.

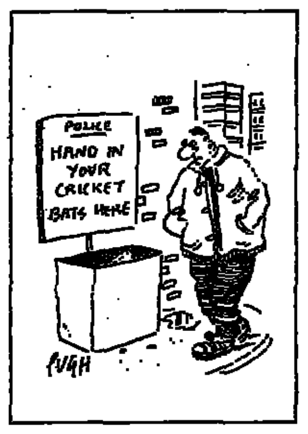
Murtaza Bhutto, the younger brother of the former Prime Minister and a political rival, was killed with seven party supporters in a police shooting outside his house in Karachi on September 20.

During an interview with *The Times* in October, Miss Bhutto said she was becoming reconciled with her "baby brother" before he was murdered and that she was profoundly shaken by his death.

Police have already arrested a number of people over the murder, including Miss Bhutto's former intelligence chief, Masood Sharif, and several senior policemen.

Miss Bhutto has accused the caretaker Government of conspiring to keep her out of power.

Benazir Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari



POLICE
HAND IN YOUR CRICKET BATS HERE
PUGH

Duke says sorry for gun remarks

The Duke of Edinburgh has apologised for his criticism of government plans to ban handguns.

But families of the victims of the Dunblane massacre demanded that the Duke retract the remarks. Tony Blair, the Lasbour leader, yesterday joined the criticism of the Duke's comments ......Page 2

Letters, page 17

Death on film

The BBC is considering filming the last moments of a terminally ill man or woman as part of a series of seven programmes charting human life. MPs yesterday described the idea as "macabre" and "beyond belief" ....Page 5

Good forecasts

Anatole Kaletsky's economic predictions for 1996 on currencies, stockmarkets, the housing market and the "feel-good" factor have proved remarkably accurate .Page 25

Apologetic BBC restores Carey's new year TV slot

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE BBC was yesterday forced to restore the Archbishop of Canterbury's new year message to its traditional midnight slot after a personal protest by Dr George Carey.

Flicking through his Christmas edition of *Radio Times*, Dr Carey was dismayed to discover his five-minute message had been put back one hour in the schedules to make way for new year celebrations from Scotland. Instead, he found himself squeezed in before the start of a *Carry On* film.

He immediately telephoned to protest that the BBC was marginalising religion. After hastily convened meetings yesterday the corporation was forced within hours into an embarrassing climbdown and issued an apology.

Last night, in spite of the *Radio Times* listing which puts *Happy New Year* at 1am on New Year's Day, Dr Carey was assured that his message will go out as usual a few minutes after Big Ben's midnight peals. But next year, the BBC insisted, the Archbishop will have to endure the later slot to allow a "seamless" transmission of the secular new year shows.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has broadcast a new year message from Lambeth Palace since 1987, when it began with the then-incumbent, Dr Robert Runcie. It is recorded on December 30, after the Archbishop returns to Lambeth from his traditional Christmas holiday at the palace at Canterbury.

A spokeswoman for the Archbishop said yesterday: "The Archbishop values the opportunity to share some spiritual reflections with the country at a particularly significant moment at the start of the new year. We have reason to believe that many people appreciate this tradition and are pleased that the BBC shares that view."

A BBC spokesman said: "We made a mistake in not ensuring that there was a full explanation of the reasons for moving the Archbishop's message to 1am. We are now restoring the message to its traditional placing at 12.05, between *The End of the Year Show* and *Hogmanay Live*."

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield and head of the Church of England's communications committee, welcomed the BBC's capitulation. "It is important that the Archbishop of Canterbury is given the opportunity by the public service broadcasters to share some spiritual values with the nation at a particularly significant moment."

Chopard
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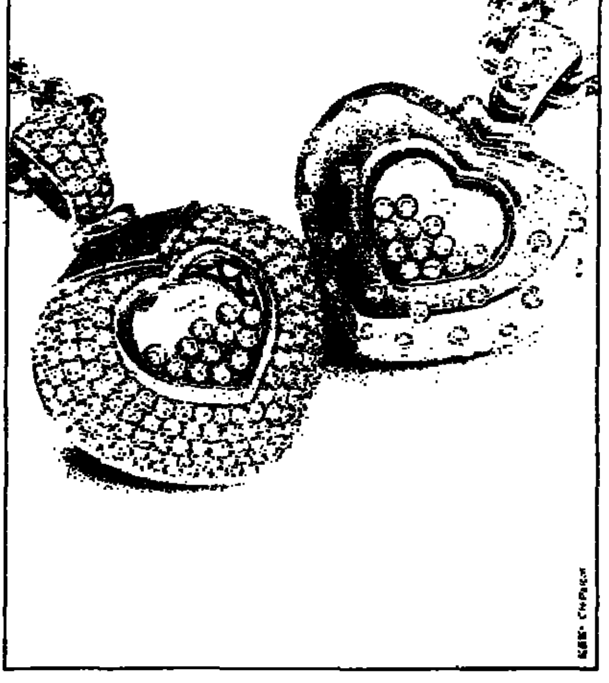

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هكذا في الأصل

Cabinet keeps currency debate alive

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

The extent of British alarm about loss of sovereignty in Europe was exposed yesterday in a survey of European Union citizens. More than half the country fears Britain will either lose its character or simply not exist, compared with only about a third in other member states. Asked whether they feared a loss of national identity and culture, in Britain 54 per cent said they did, compared with an EU average of 35 per cent. In addition, 50 per cent of Britons said they feared the prospect of the country "not really existing any more", compared with 30 per cent across the EU.

A WEIGHTY alliance of ministers yesterday forced Kenneth Clarke to keep open the Cabinet discussion on the single currency in the run-up to the general election.

Senior ministers last night voiced hopes that the Government would take a deeply sceptical line on the prospects of Britain joining monetary union in the next Parliament after the Chancellor's attempt to end debate on the issue failed.

After a tense meeting at which economic and monetary union was discussed for 90 minutes, with apparently all members of the Cabinet contributing, Mr Clarke was told to produce a new paper setting out the basis by which the Government would judge whether other countries, as well as Britain, had fulfilled the criteria for joining a single currency.

The idea was proposed by John Major as he summed up the unusually lengthy discussion in which all ministers said the paramount aim was to find a stance around which the party could unite and score points off Labour. The paper will be brought forward in late January or February.

Last night it was clear that several senior ministers — far more than just the hardline Euro-sceptics — were hoping that the paper would provide an escape route by which the Goverment could suggest that the prospects of a soundly based single currency were slim, and that therefore the likelihood of Britain signing up was extremely small.

The Cabinet endorsed the wait-and-see policy of staying in the single currency negotiations to obtain the best outcome for Britain. Even the sceptics now accept that it will be impossible for the Prime Minister or Mr Clarke to budge from it. But they believe that the options-open stance does not preclude the Government from making a strong declaration nearer the election that it would be unlikely that Britain could enter a single currency in the following five years. A Cabinet source told *The Times*: "There is movement here. This issue remains alive."

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary; Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary; Michael Howard, the Home Secretary; and Lord Cranborne, leader of the Lords, were the leading opponents yesterday of Mr Clarke's attempt to resolve the issue. He had brought forward a Treasury paper, commissioned two weeks ago at Mr Howard's suggestion, which concluded that it would not be possible to judge whether countries were fudging the entry criteria until early 1998.

Mr Howard and others had hoped that the Treasury might conclude that there had already been so much fudging that the Government could say that the chances of Britain wanting to join such a doubtfully based enterprise were slender.

Mr Clarke's decision to rush forward the document upset his colleagues, some of whom felt he was trying to bounce them into closing the debate.

Mr Clarke was reported last night to be happy with the Cabinet's decision to ask for a new paper. He was also said to accept that party unity was an overriding aim in the discussions.

Duke apologises for distress caused by gun comments

By Jill Sherman and Shirley English

THE Duke of Edinburgh apologised yesterday for his outspoken criticism of government plans to ban handguns.

His remarks in a radio interview were condemned as outrageous and insensitive by parents of children killed in the Dunblane massacre. But Buckingham Palace said that Prince Philip had not intended *to cause offence or distress and* was sorry if he had done so.

Families of the Dunblane children refused to accept the apology and demanded that the Duke retract the original remarks made on Radio 5 Live's *Inside Edge* programme.

The apology followed widespread criticism of Prince Philip after he suggested that members of shooting clubs were no more dangerous than cricketers or tennis players.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said that the Duke's comparison of handguns with cricket bats was "not a wise analogy". He said that the Duke was entitled to his views but Labour, which is pressing for a ban on all handguns, held a different position.

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, was less diplomatic. "The views of one elderly aristocrat, based on a completely crazy view on a comparison between a cricket bat and rapid-fire handgun, is not going to deflect Parliament."

Mr Robertson welcomed the apology but said the comments had "damaged the credibility of Prince Philip enormously and I think these remarks are going to be counter-productive. It's the views of an eccentric individual, putting forward an argument that doesn't hold water."

The Duke: has failed to pacify his critics

But the Duke's remarks attracted strong support from some quarters yesterday. A poll for Radio 5 Live showed that 68 per cent agreed with his comments while 32 per cent disagreed. He also won support from 75 per cent of viewers phoning GMTV's telephone hotline.

During a visit to Ely Cathedral yesterday, Prince Philip declined to comment on his remarks. But Buckingham *Palace had sought* to calm the row by emphasising that the remarks were made in the course of a wide-ranging interview about sport.

"Prince Philip had no intention whatsoever of causing offence or distress to anyone and he is sorry if he has done so. His personal views were very much focused in the area of how difficult it is to apply the law sensibly in these difficult situations," the Palace statement said. "Prince Philip made absolutely clear in the interview his horror at the Dunblane incident and his sympathy for the bereaved."

The Duke's controversial comments were recorded for *an interview broadcast last* night. He said in the interview: "There's no evidence that people who use weapons for sport are any more dangerous than people who use golf clubs or tennis racquets or cricket bats.

"If a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean are you going to ban cricket bats?"

But John McLaren, 62, whose granddaughter, Megan Turner was murdered at Dunblane, said the apology did not go far enough. "It was totally insensitive and shows he is a man with no feeling for the situation."

David Scott, whose daughter, Hannah, also died in the massacre, said: "He clearly has no understanding of the carnage that went on in that gymnasium."

☐ A Labour Party political broadcast that featured a *message being spelt out in* gunfire did not breach standards of taste and decency, the Independent Television Commission has ruled. It said: "Whilst sorry to learn of the distaste, the ITC did not consider that a link with Dunblane would have been inferred by most viewers."

DAVE JONES/PA

Jean Dennis: judge praised her devotion and efficiency in caring for husband

Payout for man in coma since ambulance strike

By a Staff Reporter

A MAN left in a permanent coma after an ill-equipped army crew answered an emergency call during the ambulance strike of 1989 has finally been awarded compensation of £750,000. With only a bit of basic resuscitation, John Dennis, now 47, would probably have "walked off the stretcher" after a minor heart attack, his solicitor said.

Mr Dennis's wife, Jean, said that her emergency call on December 17, 1989, was answered by two soldiers in an army ambulance, who did not appear to know what to do, were ill-equipped and needed directions from the couple's home in Edgwick, Coventry, to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The journey should have taken two or three *minutes, but a wrong turn* added a four or five minutes to the trip and, by the time Mr Dennis arrived at the hospital, he had suffered irreparable brain damage.

Mrs Dennis, 46, now living in Bedworth, has since cared for her husband at home. Mr Justice McCullough praised her dedication yesterday, saying: "The blend of devotion and efficiency shines through every report. I do not remember a case in which praise has been put to the carer in quite such glowing terms." He agreed that the couple should be advanced £150,000 so that they could buy a bungalow and make the necessary modifications for Mr Dennis.

John Dennis: he was awarded £750,000

He made the award against NHS Litigation, which took over from the original defendants, the West Midlands Health Authority and the Ministry of Defence. The case had been due to go to the High Court in Birmingham earlier this month, but the defendants admitted general liability in November, allowing a compensation claim to be made.

The money will be administered by the court, effectively holding it in trust for the rest of Mr Dennis's life.

After the hearing, Mrs Dennis said: "I am extrememly relieved. A settlement will continue to enable me to look after my husband at home." She added: "It should not take so long — it is seven years since I first considered legal action. All the time you have not only got to look after your loved ones, but wonder how you are going to cope."

The couple were married in 1972 in Northern Ireland when Mr Dennis was an infantryman and his wife a *military policewoman. At the* time of his heart attack he was an assembly line worker at the Land Rover plant in Solihull.

John Davis, the couple's solicitor, said: "If the people who had attended to him had been properly trained, had the right equipment and had not got lost, there's every likelihood he would have ended up no worse off for the episode."

Death toll in food poison outbreak increases to 15

By Shirley English

THE death toll in the *E. coli 0157* food poisoning outbreak in Scotland rose to 15, making it the world's second worst on record, after two elderly people died in hospital.

A 76-year-old man, believed to be from New Stevenston, and a 78-year-old woman from Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, died at Monklands hospital, on Wednesday night. The woman, Sarah (Cissie) Cameron had attended a pensioners' lunch on November 17 at Wishaw Old Parish Church.

Seven people at the meal have died after eating meat pies and gravy supplied by John M. Barr & Son, the Wishaw butcher thought to be the sole source of the epidemic. Mrs Cameron had been ill since November 21 when the outbreak was first identified. She was admitted to hospital on November 27. The man who died had also eaten meat bought from an outlet supplied by Barr.

A total of 407 people now have symptoms of the bacteri*um and 250 have been con*firmed as having the infection, an increase of 15 on the previous day. Six adults are seriously ill.

Syed Ahmed, the public health consultant leading the outbreak control team, said yesterday that the recent deaths were from the first wave of illnesses. He maintained the epidemic was now firmly under control with new cases arising at a rate of one or two a day, all of which could be traced to secondary infection from person to person. "We are confident that we have eliminated the source of the infection," Dr Ahmed said.

Mr Barr's solicitor, George Moore, is to meet with North Lanarkshire environmental *health officers on Monday* to discuss the results of tests on cooked and pre-prepared meat products taken from his shop.

The first of a series of full-page advertisements giving advice on personal hygiene and the dangers of food poisoning over the Christmas and New Year period will begin appearing in Lanarkshire newspapers today.

Second fire breaks out in Channel Tunnel

Eurotunnel's attempt to rebuild public confidence in the safety of the Channel Tunnel received a setback yesterday when a fire broke out on board a Le Shuttle passenger train. The fire, almost exactly a month after the blaze that injured 14 people and closed the tunnel for 15 days, started in electrical wiring on an empty shuttle train early yesterday morning.

The train was standing at the Folkestone terminal close to the tunnel entrance. It was being used as an evacuation stand-by train in case of an emergency. A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said the "small fire" was put out within 13 minutes by Kent Fire Brigade. "No one was injured and nothing was damaged. The limited service we are running was not disrupted and we are investigating," she said.

Alone at the top

John Major has become *Radio 4's Man of the Year* by being the only man on the shortlist of six for the *Today* programme Personality of the Year. Voting was cut from four to three hours to limit any organised telephoning for the finalists. Tony Blair was disqualified after an attempt to rig the vote in his favour was discovered. A memo was sent to Labour supporters canvassing support. The Personality of the Year will be announced on Boxing Day.

Minister to stand down

THE Trade Minister, Anthony Nelson, is to stand down at the next election for "family and personal" reasons. Mr Nelson, 48, MP for Chichester since 1974, is the 61st Conservative to announce retirement from the Commons. He has a majority of 20,887 but his wife is suffering from a serious illness. His resignation means that, with Kensington and Chelsea, two of the safest seats in the country are up for grabs.

***Leading* article, page 17**

Troops head for Bosnia

A British force of 5,000 soldiers, equipped with Warrior armoured vehicles and heavy artillery, will today begin an 18-month tour of duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Codenamed Lodestar, the operation will be the third carried out by British troops since Britain became involved in Bosnia in 1992. The new contingent will be serving with the Nato-led Stabilisation Force, which takes over officially from Nato's Implementation Force this morning.

Prescott libel damages

John Prescott yesterday accepted undisclosed libel damages over a newspaper article that said he accepted a free flight to the United States organised by the political lobbyist Ian Greer. Mr Prescott's QC, Arthur Davidson, told Mr Justice French at the High Court that Mr Prescott had never accepted a flight or any other gift from Mr Greer. The report appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, which was represented in court to retract the allegations.

Bouncers set to be vetted

Thousands of private security guards and night club bouncers would be vetted under government proposals to rid the industry of criminals. Security guards would be licensed by an independent authority, and it would be an offence to employ an unlicensed guard or to work as one. The proposals are a reversal of the Government's recent position when ministers argued that it would increase the burden of regulation on the industry.

Auditor clears council

A Tory council which pioneered sales of council houses was cleared of running a "homes for votes" policy. However, the district auditor for Wandsworth council in south London found "serious shortcomings and omissions" in the advice members were given before deciding to put properties on the market. Rowland Little said the council misdirected itself in law about the correct way to meet its statutory *duties to the homeless.*

Brocket Hall relaunched

Brocket Hall, the ancestral home of Lord Brocket, now serving five years in jail for fraud, is to be relaunched as a leading hotel and conference centre. The new owners, Hong Kong-based CCA, which bought the house outside Welwyn, Hertfordshire, earlier this month for an estimated £9 million for a 60-year lease, plan to create a *second 18-hole golf course on the 534-acre estate, and build* a health spa, with a gym and pool.

Arts grants cut by 20%

Westminster Council is to cut its grants to arts groups by nearly 20 per cent. English National Opera and the Wigmore Hall, who are likely to be affected, said that their education programmes, the very activities from which Westminster's community most benefits, were likely to suffer first. Westminster councillors will decide on January 29 how the cuts should be made.

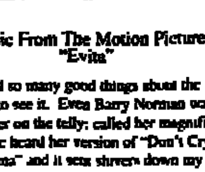
Tote bets are on

The Tote is to be allowed to take bets on the winning numbers of the Irish lottery from today, it was announced last night. The Home Office expects the turnover of the Tote to increase by about 2 per cent as a result of gamblers having a flutter on the winning numbers drawn in the Republic's lottery. It brings the Tote into line with other bookmakers.

Sculpture saved by grant

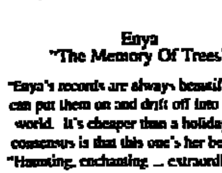
An 18th-century marble sculpture has been saved after an appeal by a museum in Bath. The 1752 work, which represents the goddess Diana and the youth Endymion, is one of the rare surviving sculptures of Giuseppe Plura, an Italian master who made it after moving to Bath in 1749. The Heritage Memorial Fund gave £247,230 to prevent it leaving the Holburne Museum.

"Oh, blige!! What can I get for Rob?"



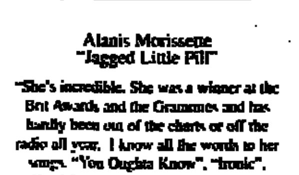
Music From The Motion Picture
"Evita"

"I've heard so many good things about the film I can't wait to see it. Even Barry Norman was raving about her on the telly; called her magnificent, I think. I've heard her version of "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" and it sent shivers down my spine. Plus there's a new song which Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote especially for her, called "You Must Love Me" and, of course, "Another Suitcase In Another Hall". Why wait?"



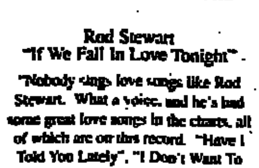
Enya
"The Memory Of Trees"

"Enya's records are always beautiful. You can put them on and drift off into another world. It's cheaper than a holiday. The consensus is that this one's her best ever. "Haunting, enchanting ... extraordinary" it said in the Daily Express, and Q said it was "Like nothing else on Earth". Plus it's got "Anywhere Is" and the gorgeous "On My Way Home" on it. Luscious."



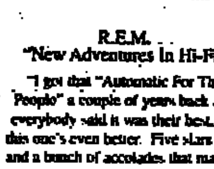
Alanis Morissette
"Jagged Little Pill"

"She's incredible. She was a winner at the Brit Awards and the Grammies and has hardly been out of the charts or off the radio all year. I know all the words to her songs. "You Oughta Know", "Ironic", "Head Over Feet", "All I Really Want" and "Hand In My Pocket". She really tells it like it is and good for her, I say. Definitely."



Rod Stewart
"If We Fall In Love Tonight"

"Nobody sings love songs like Rod Stewart. What a voice, and he's had some great love songs in the charts, all of which are on this record. "Have I Told You Lately", "I Don't Want To Talk About It", "Downtown Train", "Tom Traubert's Blues (Waltzing Matilda)", "You're In My Heart". Plus there's some new versions of classics like "When I Need You" to bring it up to date. Lovely. Lovely."



R.E.M.
"New Adventures In Hi-Fi"

"I got that "Automatic For The People" a couple of years back and everybody said it was their best, but this one's even better. Five stars in Q and a bunch of accolades that make it a bit of a winner in the Christmas gift stakes. It includes "Electrolite", "How The West Was Won (and Where It Got Us)", "Bittersweet Me" and the haunting "E-Bow (The Letter)". A classic."

Why did drivers ignore screams of rape victim?

By Daniel McGrory

PEOPLE returning home from work and local residents expressed their astonishment and disgust last night that evening rush-hour drivers did not stop to rescue a woman who was beaten and raped on a busy street in Chislehurst, southeast London.

The 36-year-old senior civil servant fought the rapist for almost five minutes under the glare of street lights while motorists idling in a traffic jam ignored her screams for help. The woman was so badly beaten, police say, that there is not an inch of her face that is not cut or bruised. Her cheekbone has been broken and her nose badly swollen.

The woman usually walks the short route home from Chislehurst station with her boyfriend. But on Tuesday night, when she was assaulted, he had to attend a reception.

Women walking their dogs on the Chislehurst cricket ground, where the attack happened, yesterday condemned as cowards those who refused to help her. The attacked woman, who was released from hospital yesterday, told police she was so close to the traffic that she could clearly distinguish the faces of drivers staring at her while she was grappling on wet grass to fight off the slightly built rapist.

Detectives say that scores of motorists in Watts Lane would have seen the woman being punched and then dragged through a thick gorse bush. But despite police appeals for help no one has come forward.

Police last night set up a road block in Watts Lane at the same time as the woman civil servant was attacked, but they described the reaction from home-coming commuters as "a very poor response".

Mrs Jan Kidd, who lives close to the cricket ground, left work early yesterday to walk her dog in daylight. She said: "I cannot believe that no one lifted a finger. They should be ashamed of themselves. Nobody wants to get involved, which is appalling. How can any woman feel safe?"

Gordon Westley, 73, a retired Ministry of Defence official living in the area, said: "It's an indictment of the way we live that people choose to look the other way. At my age if I saw what must have been an obvious beating of a woman you would step in. This should shame us all."

Detectives were reluctant to condemn those who drove past, saying the public were increasingly afraid to intervene for fear of being attacked or knifed themselves, or finding they faced legal action.

Detective Inspector Dave Gaywood, who is leading the hunt for the rapist, said: "You would like to think if someone saw such an attack they would have phoned the police or intervened in some way. Who knows, if someone had got out of that car that young woman might not have been raped."

The attacked woman told police yesterday how during her ordeal she made a conscious decision to remember every detail about the man, who had threatened that he had a knife and would kill her if she did not stop screaming.

She described him as aged 28-33, white, about 5ft 7in tall, thin, well dressed, clean shaven and well spoken with a London accent. He was wearing an expensive black leather jacket and black trousers and she remembers "he smelt very clean".

The woman had taken her usual 6.08pm train from Charing Cross to Chislehurst, arriving sat about 6.50. She was ten minutes into her 25-minute walk home carrying two heavy supermarket carrier bags when she felt a man grab her hair and try to steal her shoulder bag.

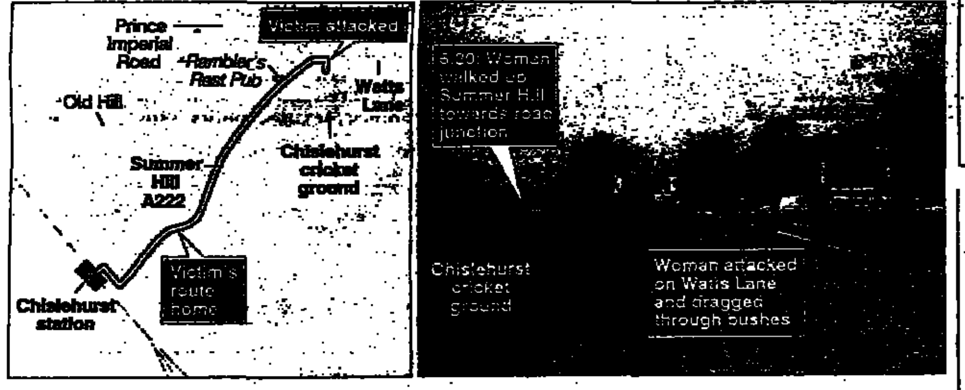
She turned and stared at him, but he punched her hard in the face three or four times. The woman said they fought and struggled on the pavement for as much as five minutes until the assailant pushed a 3in metal object into her mouth and knocked her to the ground, repeatedly kicking her in the face and body.

He then pulled her through a thick 5ft high gorse hedge, which must have left him with cuts. After raping her he calmly emptied her purse onto the grass and took money and credit cards, repeating his warning that he would stab and kill her if she tried to escape or shout for help.

On the other side of the hedge rush-hour traffic was at a standstill on Watts Lane and cars approaching the mini roundabout would have had a clear view.

After the attack, the woman flagged down a woman motorist, who drove her to Chislehurst police station. The driver then left and would only give her name as Maureen.

The Chislehurst attack comes after a number of incidents this year when the public have apparently ignored the struggles or cries of victims. Just over a month ago, drivers stuck in a traffic jam on a south London road ignored a boy aged 13 as he struggled with an attacker who abducted and raped him. In August, passengers on the London Underground ignored the cries of a 24-year-old woman being kidnapped. Passengers, she said, looked away. After being forced on and off trains for four and a half hours she was raped. In March, in Wigan, a 15-year-old girl was raped in the town centre after passers-by ignored her pleas.


Prince Imperial Road
Victim attacked
Rambler's Rest Pub
Watts Lane
Old Hill
Chislehurst cricket ground
Summer Hill A222
Victim's route home
Chislehurst station
6.30: Woman walked up Summer Hill towards road junction
Chislehurst cricket ground
Woman attacked on Watts Lane and dragged through bushes

Too busy, too scared or too anxious to get home

By Daniel McGrory

YESTERDAY rush-hour motorists were too busy trying to cope with the traffic jam at the mini-roundabout by Chislehurst Cricket Club to pay attention to police hunting the rapist who attacked a civil servant there 48 hours earlier.

Cars converged from five roads into one of south London's most notorious bottlenecks. Staring ahead, drivers ignored the steady procession of homecoming commuters who walked up the steep Summer Hill from Chislehurst station, moving faster than the stalled traffic.

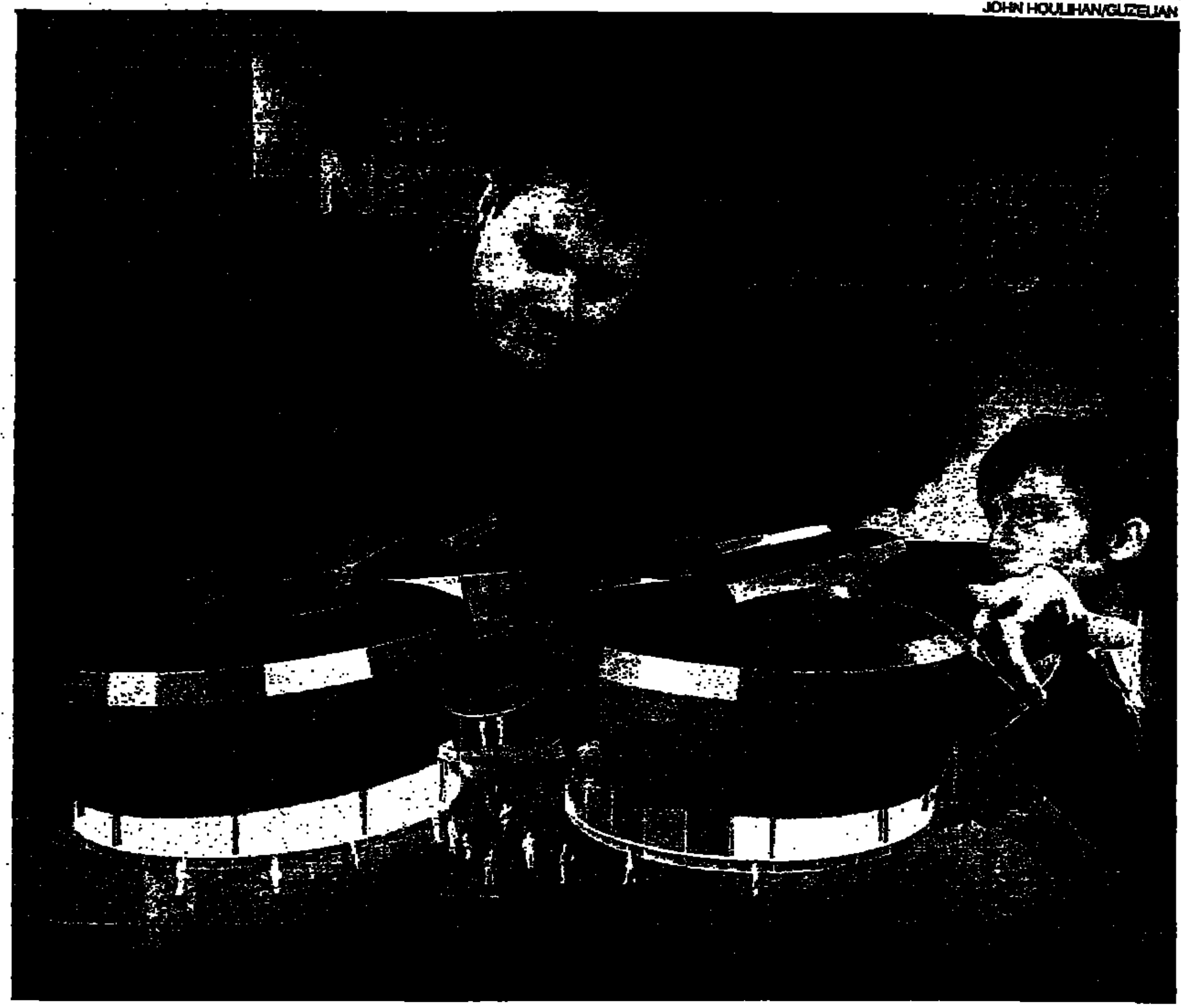
A senior detective said last night: "Chivalry is dead, I'm afraid. The sign of the time is that no one sees, no one hears and no one cares. Everyone looks the other way because they are too busy or too scared.

"They think if they intervene they might get knifed by some madman or end up facing a court summons themselves. But how can so many people, driving and walking, ignore a woman being punched and kicked and screaming for five minutes?"

As the victim walked up Summer Hill carrying two heavy supermarket bags, she would have passed the brightly-lit entrances to two private estates of mews houses and detached properties. She would have quickened her step past woodland and glanced down at the Christmas decorations festooning the Rambler's Rest pub before crossing the stationary traffic and heading down Watts Lane alongside the cricket pitch.

Cars idling on the hill give their drivers an uninterrupted view of the pitch. The victim had walked only 20 yards along Watts Lane, clearly lit by small white street lamps, when she was attacked from behind. There are no houses here but the pavement is narrow, with barely enough room for two people to pass, let along struggle for five minutes.

Until this week, Chislehurst has thought of itself as a close community. Each street boasts a Neighbourhood Watch and there are self-help organisations for working residents and for the many retired people who live here. But nobody who walked the street came to rescue the rape victim.



JOHN HOULIHAN/GUZELIAN

Nick Banks, left, and Russell Senior, of Pulp, with a model of the building, designed as a pair of drums

It's only rock and roll, but will they really like it in Sheffield?

*It might not be on Route 66 but when it comes to rock, **Caitlin Moran** finds Sheffield does have something to sing about*

AT FIRST glance, Sheffield's pedigree as a citadel full of muses setting the world's front pages alight is slightly limited: Joe Cocker, long-haired heavy metal band Def Leppard and indie's flavour-of-the-month The Longpigs do not a Memphis make.

Manchester has kicked out musical prodigies on a regular basis — New Order, Happy Mondays, The Smiths, Simply Red and the Bee Gees. London is where everyone ends up. And Hay-on-Wye is prettier. I mean, no one ever ran away from home to the glittering lights of *Sheffield*.

And besides, just how horrible is the idea of a rock museum? Youth's febrile kick isn't meant to be pinned down under glass; catharsis cannot be catalogued, and cool isn't something that a display of old rockers' trousers can adequately convey.

Pop pilgrimages — something that rock museums presumably aspire to cater for — are far too personal for that. The first time I ran away from home for rock'n'roll, me and a friend headed for Aberystwyth, and the beach where the late, unlamented prog rock band Levitation first took acid.

We only got as far as Shrewsbury before the band broke up and we realised that they were overrated anyway. But there is still Marc Bolan's tree in Richmond, the Beatles' pub (the Grapes next to the the Cavern) and Joy Division's Ian Curtis's grave in Manchester for those days when youths just want to have a wallow in pop's sticky-sweet nostalgia.

However Sheffield does have some arguments in its favour. It has a secret pop history that deserves to be more widely promoted: there is a strong case to be made for local avant-gardists Cabaret Voltaire having invented the influential Detroit Techno movement. ABC's "Lexicon of Love" regenerated pop when punk and New Wave had sullied its good name; and The Human League kickstarted the synth-pop scene that spawned The Pet Shop Boys, Erasure, New Order and, of course, Pulp.

And it is with Pulp that Sheffield's Rock Museum holds its ace. If the powers that be have an atom of sense, they will make Jarvis Cocker head curator, and allow him to fill it with Bri-nylon Y-fronts; photographs of dogs "doing it" on central reservations (a recurrent lyrical obsession); displays of "NHS glasses in rock"; and plaster casts of Cocker's extraordinary long fingers. And maybe there the spirit of a rock museum will finally come to life.

Caitlin Moran, page 31

Lottery cash puts pop on the map

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

SHEFFIELD won £9.5 million of lottery cash yesterday to create Britain's first National Centre for Popular Music. It intends to blur the boundaries between classical, rock and pop, reminding the world that Mozart arias were hummed in the streets in the 18th century.

The grant from the Arts Council's National Lottery department was announced by Russell Senior and Nick Banks from the Sheffield pop band Pulp.

The centre, which will celebrate music from around the world, will not collect memorabilia. Instead it will rely on loans from private and public collections such as the Radio 1 archive and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Stuart Rogers, the chief executive, said that he was often asked how he defined pop music: "We hope people will decide that after they leave the centre. We want to broaden what they think is pop. It's wider than anyone appreciates, particularly now, with Pavarotti in Hyde Park doing what the Rolling Stones did 25 years ago."

Tim Strickland, the creative director, said: "We will focus primarily on post-1945. But you can't omit folk and music hall and the popular end of classical and opera."

Future exhibitions will include the changing form of sound systems, with displays of wax cylinders, jukeboxes and digital technology and a history of musical instruments. Educational programmes are planned for schoolchildren.

The overall cost of the centre will be £15 million. From the summer of 1998, the organisers hope to attract 400,000 visitors a year.

Sheffield was one of 67 lottery beneficiaries yesterday. Among others, London Electronic Arts, a cultural centre in Hoxton, east London, received £2.8 million and the regional film theatre at the Cornerhouse, Manchester, won £1.17 million for refurbishments.

Pop, page 31

Be safe, be mean with the Scotch

By Jeremy Laurance

THE cheapest brands of whisky may be the best buy, scientists have discovered. The classier the malt the higher the level of cancer-causing chemicals it contains.

All whisky contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, but the levels contained in different brands can vary 14-fold. Tests on 18 brands, reported in *The Lancet*, showed that the Scottish malt whisky Laphroaig, had the most at 47.5 nanograms per litre and an American bourbon, Old Overholt, the least at 3.4. Overall, malt whiskies had the highest levels and Irish whiskeys the lowest.

Drinking whisky is known to increase the risk of cancers of the mouth, gullet and lower bowel, but researchers at the Department of Health Risk and Toxicology at the University of Maastricht, who conducted the tests, say that concentrations of aromatic hydrocarbon are unlikely to explain this.

Conservative spin doctors bemoan trend of confessional interviews

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TORY politicians have been warned against confessional interviews after Tony Blair became the latest political heavyweight to be tripped up by his past. Conservative Central Office could scarcely conceal its glee after Mr Blair's account of the day he played truant on a plane bound for the Bahamas was instantly contradicted by his father.

The Labour leader is the latest in a long line of politicians to try to exploit their family misfortunes only to see the strategy backfire. Only yesterday John Major's attempt to woo women voters backfired when his claim in an interview in *Good Housekeeping*, that he called his wife "Little Grub", was denied by Mrs Major. "We don't have nicknames for each other. What rubbish," she said.

Tory spin doctors have now intervened. Politicians used to be afraid of being embarrassed by the antics of their children. But now the roles have reversed. "We simply cannot have what appear to be nice stories about their domestic life being ripped to shreds by their own relatives the next day," said one. "It makes politicians look silly if they cannot even get their stories squared first with their family. We will not institute formal advice. But when we sit in on future interviews we will steer questions well away from their past. Their answers have an irritating habit of going wrong."

Mr Blair joined in the first time time this year with his own poignant anecdotes about the impact of his father's illness on his childhood.

Norma Major: denied being called Mrs Grub

Friends believe the success of the speech encouraged him to break his silence on the attempt to flee the terrors of his public school on a charter flight to the Bahamas in 1966. But his father, Leo, 73, said: "He only made it to the airport."

The confusion about the teenage runaway's flight of fancy has led to one tabloid newspaper to try to induce the air stewardess to come forward, who escorted the young stowaway off the charter flight at Newcastle Airport, with the offer of a free holiday on the sunshine island. Labour is taking a more relaxed view. But one of the party's spin doctors said: "We may insist they rigorously check the facts before they hark on about childhood adventures which can be checked."

☐ John Major is the only man among six candidates nominated for the Radio 4 Today programme's News Personality of the Year. The winner will be announced on Friday.

Leading article, page 17

Make someone happy this Christmas

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هكذا عن الأصل

Rivals squabble as universities bid for share of £700m

Cambridge disputes Oxford's supremacy in research ratings

By John O'Leary and David Charter

OXFORD and Cambridge were both claiming victory yesterday in the four-yearly university research ratings, which influence the distribution of £700 million of government money.

The £2 million exercise measured the quality of research in 69 different subjects, but the complex ratings system left the two universities so close that the outcome varied according to the method of calculation chosen.

Universities and colleges were allowed to decide how many of their staff should have their work examined. Oxford, by entering 91 per cent of its academics, triumphed among those entered for assessment, but Cambridge, which entered 98 per cent, had the best score when all staff were taken into account.

An Oxford spokesman said the university had omitted a number of staff whose duties were primarily administrative. "We followed the rules of the exercise and used our own best judgment." At Cambridge, a spokeswoman said the university regarded itself as recording the highest score, which would be demonstrated when research budgets were allocated.

The London School of Economics, which had been lobbying the higher education funding councils for three months to publish official league tables, produced its own analysis, claiming second place, with Cambridge first and Oxford third.

The funding councils, which commissioned 60 panels of experts to produce the ratings, said the assessments were not designed to compile a single table.

Fender: said standards were improving everywhere

Brian Fender, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, said the assessments showed that the standard of research was improving everywhere. The number of top-rated departments had risen substantially and far more new universities were doing research of national excellence.

Professor Fender said: "I would say to those who fund research, including the Government, 'We have got a very healthy base, a lot of capacity for improvement has been demonstrated. Why don't we build on that?'"

Ivor Crewe, Vice-Chancellor of Essex University, said that some of the smaller research-orientated universities, such as Essex, York, Sussex and Lancaster, had done exceptionally well. "There is clearly no case for a small super league of research-based universities."

Although no new universities and colleges reached the new top grade, denoting a majority of research of international excellence, nine of their departments were in the next category. Among them, the University of Westminster, the birthplace of media studies, was celebrating its second successive grade five for research.

Nicholas Garnham, director of the Centre for Communication and Information Studies, said: "We think that good teaching and good research go together." The work assessed included research into cross-media ownership, copyright, the history of cinema and coverage of scandals.

The University of Portsmouth, which entered one scholar in the Slavonic and East European Languages assessment, earned a grade five. Ralph Cleminson, currently on a two-year sabbatical and working at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, discovered the oldest-known Slovakian Church manuscript last year.

Peter Skehan, Professor of English language teaching at Thames Valley University, where linguistics gained a five, said the grading would help it to attract high-calibre students. Part of the research was into language use within multiethnic communities in Britain.

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Education, page 33

RESEARCH RATINGS

University	No of staff assessed	% assessed	Rating
Oxford	1610	91	6.67
Cambridge	1563	98	6.49
Imperial Col, Ldn	770	90	5.98
University Col Ldn	1216	91	5.82
UMIST	432	87	5.60
Bath	394	90	5.54
Warwick	780	98	5.51
Lancaster	484	92	5.49
York	453	91	5.48
Essex	288	89	5.44
Sussex	553	88	5.35
Edinburgh	1291	94	5.34
Bristol	899	86	5.33
Wales, Cardiff	673	86	5.22
St Andrews	319	88	5.22
Cranfield	211	46	5.22
Durham	547	88	5.21
Sheffield	989	85	5.20
Southampton	817	83	5.19
Royal Holloway, Ldn	281	83	5.18
SOAS	195	89	5.18
King's Col Ldn	725	85	5.16
Manchester	1398	91	5.11
Birmingham	1152	88	5.09
Leeds	1109	88	5.05
Goldsmiths College	229	81	5.03
East Anglia	419	88	4.97
Surrey	399	78	4.97
Nottingham	942	88	4.95
Loughborough	455	82	4.91
Birkbeck Col, Ldn	253	93	4.87
Reading	680	89	4.86
Glasgow	1075	78	4.77
Heriot-Watt	233	70	4.76
Aston	157	69	4.76
Liverpool	846	82	4.74
Salford	249	66	4.73
Newcastle-up-Tyne	880	87	4.72
Stirling	271	76	4.72
Leicester	622	90	4.67
Queen Mary & Wstfld	680	83	4.60
Dundee	476	76	4.59
Strathclyde	686	74	4.57
Open University	444	50	4.56
Exeter	445	81	4.54
Wales, Swansea	419	74	4.54
Queen's Belfast	644	74	4.51
Bradford	371	88	4.44
U Col of N Wales	290	66	4.33
Kent	395	82	4.32
Keele	376	89	4.32
Brunel	268	76	4.28
Aberdeen	562	92	4.20
Ulster	495	55	4.18
Hull	484	88	4.03
Wales, Aberystwyth	336	87	3.99
City	324	64	3.93
Sheffield Hallam	274	28	3.56
Wales, Lampeter	65	93	3.55
Westminster	189	29	3.32
Nottingham Trent	245	31	3.20
Greenwich	166	27	3.20
Hertfordshire	201	28	3.16
South Bank	172	22	3.14
Portsmouth	338	44	3.13
Plymouth	291	45	3.09
Napier	78	17	3.07
Brighton	288	45	3.03
Oxford Brookes	238	48	2.98
West of England	257	28	2.94
Manchester Met	442	34	2.87
Sunderland	145	29	2.87
Robert Gordon	136	33	2.84
Livpl John Moores	262	36	2.76
Glamorgan	88	17	2.75
East London	199	36	2.71
North London	161	37	2.71
Thames Valley	47	10	2.70
Middlesex	309	43	2.68
Northumbria	253	26	2.68
De Montfort	515	52	2.67
Glasgow Caledonian	188	31	2.63
Lincs & Humberside	79	21	2.63
Leeds Metropolitan	151	23	2.62
Central Lancashire	123	22	2.61
Huddersfield	214	44	2.52
Kingston	192	33	2.52
Coventry	210	34	2.49
Wales Inst, Cardiff	96	30	2.46
Wales, Newport	35	19	2.40
Staffordshire	245	38	2.20
London Guildhall	120	36	2.20
Derby	123	26	2.19
Paisley	70	19	2.18
Anglia	137	23	2.06
Bournemouth	68	19	2.00
Abertay Dundee	78	35	1.98
Central England	269	34	1.97
Wolverhampton	206	27	1.79
Teesside	161	32	1.73
Luton	126	28	1.71

Departments were assessed on a seven-point scale. The rating gives the average score for all the staff assessed.

Minister attacks college's £250 'bounty' for new students as waste of money

By David Charter

A COLLEGE competing for students with local sixth forms has been criticised by the Government for offering £250 to potential recruits.

Trowbridge College in Wiltshire says its bursary scheme is designed to discourage students from dropping out, but local schools claim it is a bribe and James Paice, the Education Minister responsible for further education, called it a waste of money. He said he did not welcome the scheme, although he acknowledged that legislation allowed colleges to offer bursaries.

Inducements being offered by further education colleges range from £1,200 for high-flyers by Teesside College to driving lessons by Kendal College and free trips to Disneyland Paris by Walsall College of Arts and Technology.

In a letter to David Faber, the Westbury MP, Mr Paice said: "I would not wish to discourage healthy rivalry which can drive up standards. However, this sort of scheme may lead to wasteful competition if other institutions attempt to match or top the incentives."

George Bright, the principal, said the offer had been made to attract and keep students when the college restarted A-level teaching after a three-year break.

The Ford Iveco lorry that police believe was used by the IRA

Police seek lorry and fear IRA could strike at any time

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

A LORRY used by IRA terrorists to move bomb-making material is being hunted by Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch. Detectives have also searched a transport yard north of London where the 7½ tonne Ford Iveco lorry may have been kept.

Yesterday Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Commander John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said that the IRA could strike on the mainland at any time. Sir Paul said that attacks could involve anything from bombs to incendiary devices and targets could include the new year sales. "We are on a high state of alert, not just because of Christmas but because in recent years the IRA has mounted a whole range of incidents," he said. A multimillion-pound security operation involving covert operations and patrols was in place.

Mr Grieve said he did not believe that the missing vehicle was about to be used to house a bomb but that it had been used to transport bomb-making material. Police believe that the lorry, probably a C or D-registration, was first used by the IRA in February when the ceasefire collapsed with the attack on South Quay, east London, in which two people died. The vehicle is described as having a white body with blue curtains on the side. The bars under the platform and the bumper are red and the cab has faded signwriting on the side.

The IRA would have needed transport of considerable size to move the tonnes of chemicals it used in the Docklands bomb and the attack on Manchester in June. The lorry was seen in north London in June and July. So far police have been unable to trace it and say it could be parked somewhere. It may have been lent or hired to someone unwittingly acting for the terrorists.

Earlier this week police began to search the transport yard which they are certain was used by the terrorists this summer to store material and to work on planned attacks. The Anti-Terrorist Branch was led to the yard, close to the M25 junction at South Mimms, by a tip from the public. The owner of the yard had no idea what was happening. The terrorists had masqueraded as a commercial company.

Last night John Hume, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that a restoration of the IRA ceasefire was still possible. He said he was absolutely convinced that the renewed IRA campaign would stop if the Prime Minister responded positively to his proposals aimed at clearing the way for Sinn Fein's early admission to talks on Northern Ireland's future.

Yesterday Mr Hume discussed the Northern Ireland peace process with five loyalist prisoners in the Maze. He said the discussions had been "very valuable" and constructive and that the prisoners had accepted his assurances that there would be no behind-the-scenes deals with the British Government.

Marriage is added to schools' moral code

By David Charter

CHILDREN will be urged, in a proposed moral code for schools, to support marriage, it was announced yesterday. The change follows criticism that the first draft of a government guide did too little to support traditional family life.

Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said that the statement on marriage was being added to a section on society. It called on children to "support marriage as the traditional form of the family, while recognising that the love and commitment required for a secure and happy childhood can be found in families of other kinds".

The compromise was aimed at satisfying teachers who said during consultation that society was so diverse that schools could not maintain that there was only one way to bring up children.

When the first draft was issued there were complaints from within the National Forum for Values in Education and the Community, the body set up by Mr Tate to write the code. The criticisms followed the murder of the London head teacher Philip Lawrence and the disclosure of public disquiet by a poll carried out for the forum. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was among those who called for the original wording on the family to be strengthened.

The change has failed to satisfy Guy Hordern, one of five members of the 150-strong forum who campaigned for a separate section promoting family life. He said the proposals drew no distinction between marriage and cohabitation or between heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

"Using the word 'traditional' for marriage suggests it refers to what has happened in the past," he said. "It would have been better to support marriage as the ideal."

Announcing the outcome of consultation on the code, Mr Tate said that it would not be imposed but, if approved by ministers in February, schools would be encouraged to adopt it as a basis for lessons. A strong moral code, he added, was a key part of the curriculum in Far Eastern countries where children performed better in mathematics and science.

A MORI poll of nearly 1,500 adults for the consultation examined the importance of law and order and the police (backed by 9 per cent), discipline in schools and the role of teachers (8 per cent), and the family (8 per cent).

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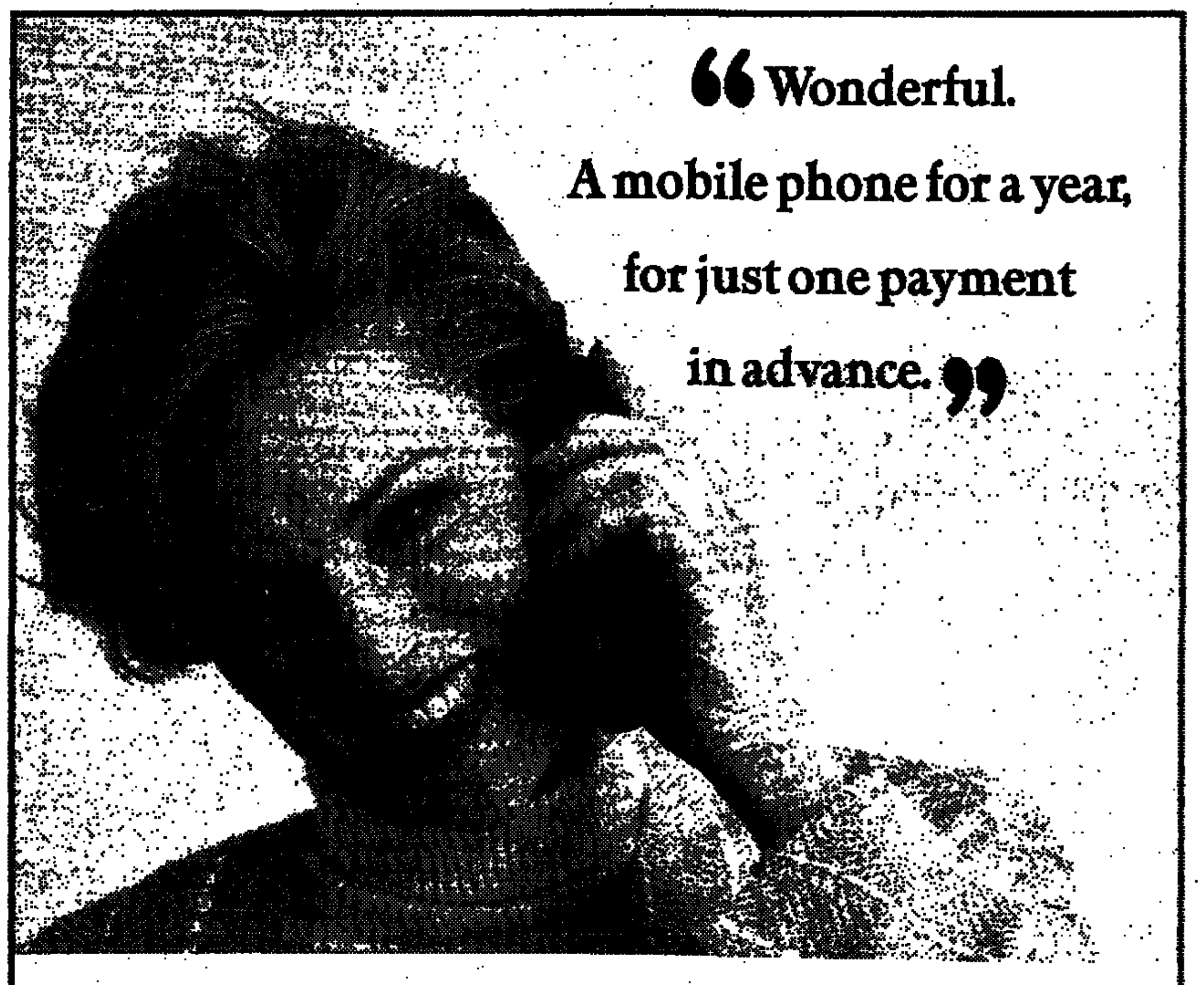

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BBC plans to capture dying breath for TV serie

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BBC plans to capture dying breath for TV series

By Russell Jenkins

THE BBC is considering filming the last moments of a terminally ill man or woman as part of a series of seven programmes charting human life from the cradle to the grave.

Researchers have begun approaching very old people and may ask them whether they can record their dying breath in the final episode of *The Human Body*, to be shown in 1998.

MPs yesterday described the idea as "macabre" and "beyond belief". The National Viewers and Listeners' Association warned the BBC to tread carefully over such sensitive ground.

It is the second time that the BBC has set out to break one of the last taboos in broadcasting — filming the moment of death other than as part of film footage in a news bulletin. Last year more than a hundred MPs signed a Commons motion protesting at the BBC's decision to broadcast the world's first televised mercy killing. The programme, *Death on Request*, screened on BBC 2, showed a doctor administering a fatal injection to a 63-year-old man suffering from chronic motor neurone disease.

The Human Body, which follows the seven ages of man and includes scenes covering conception through to death, is likely to cause a similar controversy. Conception will be illustrated in strictly biological terms.

A BBC spokeswoman said that the idea of filming the "moment of death" was under consideration but emphasised that nothing had yet been decided. The series, described as a serious scientific documentary, is likely to be broadcast after 9pm. The spokeswoman said: "While it is too early to say what is going to form the very last programme, anything we do will adhere to strict ethical guidelines. We hope to work with hospitals which conduct their own research into various stages of those seven ages themselves. There is no question of anyone appearing on a programme without giving their permission. The series itself is groundbreaking. We hope it will be informative and educational and, of course, original."

Jana Bennett, BBC head of science, said in a statement: "We have not filmed anyone's death and would not do so without the full consent of all concerned. Neither would we consider showing the moment of death without the greatest respect for the sensibilities of viewers."

Ann Winterton, Conservative MP for Congleton, one of the signatories of the earlier Commons motion, said she hoped that hospitals would refuse to work with the production team. The moment of death was essentially private and to be shared only with close family, she said.

Mrs Winterton added: "I cannot think of a word other than macabre to describe this. It is beyond belief that responsible programme-makers would wish to present this kind of material. It would be deeply upsetting for the relatives and the person dying. It is gratuitous and unnecessary."

Mary Whitehouse, the founder of the National Viewers and Listeners' Association, said: "It is a subject you would have thought would never be shown on television. Death in fictional programmes is bad enough but to show it in real life? It would have to be done with the utmost delicacy."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Falling in: 102 Gurkhas were welcomed into the undermanned 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment yesterday by Lieutenant-General Hew Pike, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Land Command. The transfer is a reprieve for the Gurkhas, who faced the threat of redundancy

Why drinking and walking home can be fatal

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A CORONER returned a verdict of accidental death this week at the inquest of Kevin Ward, a 41-year-old company director from Cheddar, Somerset. Mr Ward collapsed and died after drinking excessively during a friend's birthday celebration in November.

After the drinking, Mr Ward decided to walk home on a bitterly cold night. He had not gone far when he stumbled and fell. Tired and drunk, Mr Ward went to sleep in the road.

Eventually his snoring woke a nearby householder, but it was too late. Mr Ward died from alcohol poisoning and hypothermia.

Blood tests showed that the dead man's alcohol level was 400 milligrams per 100 millitres of blood — five times greater than the drink driving passmark. At a blood alcohol level of 400mg per 100ml, even a hardened drinker would be difficult to rouse.

The experience has shown that a person with this amount of alcohol in their blood, providing they were drinking at a steady rate, would probably have had about 22 drinks, when a drink is measured at a pub's standard tot of whisky, or a half a pint of beer. Mr Ward had been drinking both.

Death from the combination of hypothermia and alcohol is not common in this country but in Tzarist Russia, Mr Ward's fate would have been relatively common. At that time Russian innkeepers also acted as pawnbrokers, and would take the drinker's greatcoat as surety.

Contrary to popular belief, anyone who has been drinking chills much more rapidly than when they are sober. A drink may make a person feel warmer, but they lose their body temperature faster as the alcohol causes the blood vessels in the skin to dilate. The improved skin circulation results in a greater amount of blood being exposed to the chilling elements.

The contents of the hip flask should only be enjoyed by those who are warm, well wrapped up, and in full possession of their faculties.

Ears wax and wane as men grow old

By Jeremy Laurance
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MEN'S ears grow and shrink as they age, scientists have discovered. Old men have larger ears than younger ones but the latest research shows that the changes occur in seven-year cycles.

Researchers believe that the nose, the chin and the fingers could also follow the same pattern. Two Dutch scientists spotted the rhythmic changes when they compared the sizes of ears belonging to 200 British men aged between 30 and 93. The men had had their ears measured for an earlier study that showed that older men have larger ears.

Dr Jos Verhulst of the Louis Bolk Institute in Driebergen, The Netherlands, who conducted the study published in the *British Medical Journal*, said the pattern mirrored the development of the skull. Earlier research by him, to be published shortly, showed that the fusion of the plates of the skull, causing the sutures between them to fade, follows the same seven-year pattern.

"I have no idea why it should happen this way," he said. "But we now have two major structures showing this periodicity. It suggests that other parts of the body could follow the same pattern."

The idea of a seven-year rhythm in human development goes back to ancient Greece. It was first mentioned by Pythagoras and it was later taken up by Aristotle. In the modern world it has attracted less attention but in many countries, as in Britain until the 1960s, the age of majority is 21 (three times seven).

☐ People who regularly visit theatres, cinemas or concerts live longer than those who do not, according to Swedish researchers. They believe that cultural stimulation may boost the immune system.

☐ Doctors report that a man needed hospital treatment after blowing up 20 balloons in an hour. Tests showed that the pressure needed to inflate them was twice that carrying a risk of lung damage.

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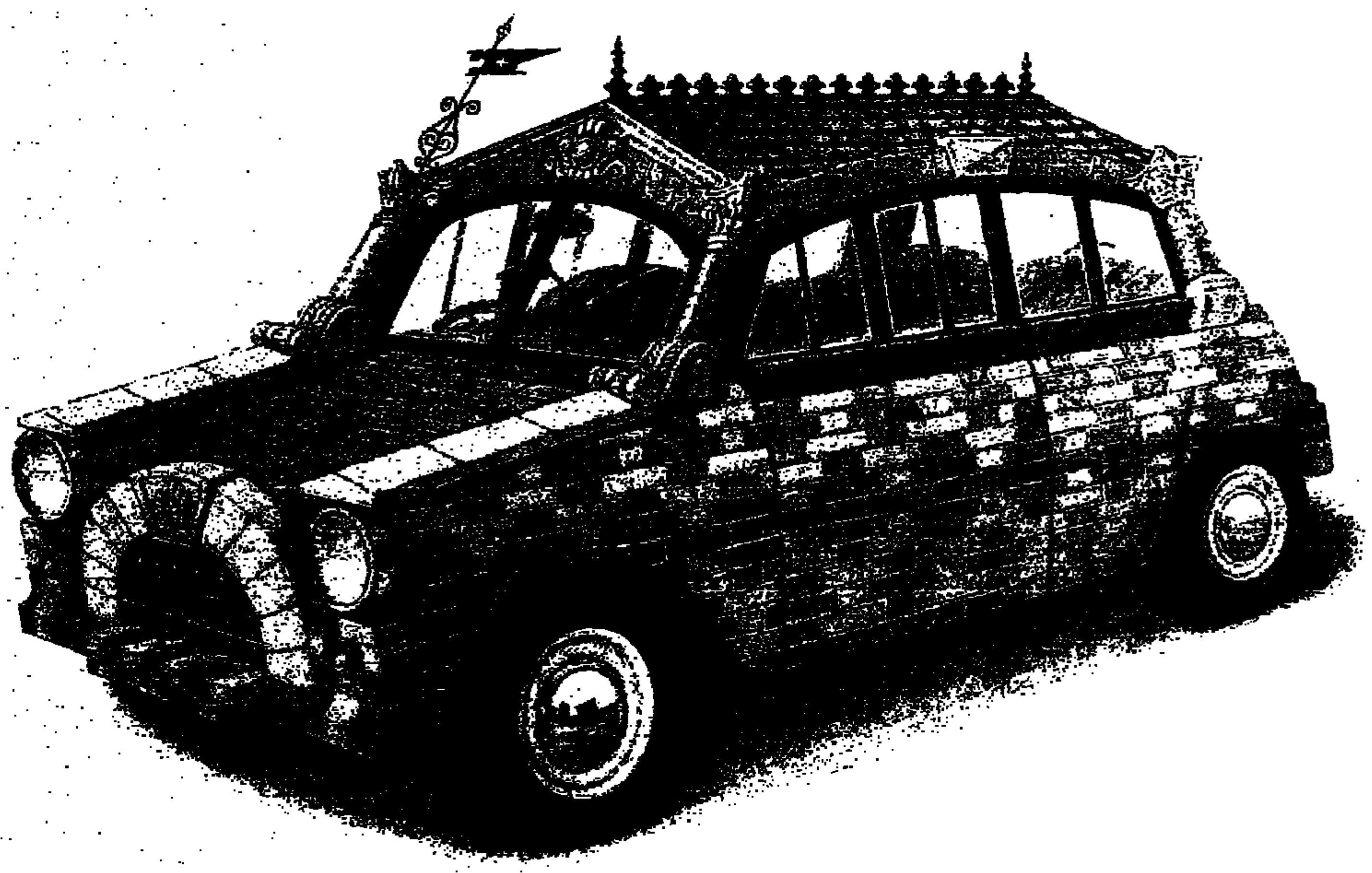

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Briton petitions Mandela for justice over son's death

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE father of a 28-year-old Briton killed by a traffic police officer in a KwaZulu/Natal coastal resort has written to President Mandela to highlight his son's case.

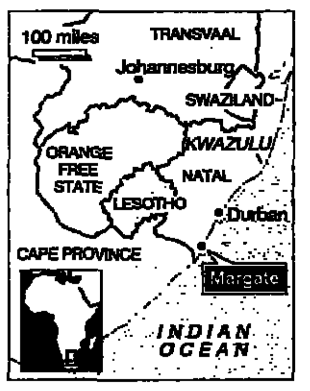
The Bradley family has discovered that the traffic officer allegedly responsible has not been suspended from duty despite being charged with culpable homicide, and the officer investigating the case is said to have been threatened.

John Bradley wrote to ask President Mandela to ensure that justice is done regarding the death of his son Kevin on November 24. Mr Bradley, who flew to South Africa with his wife to identify the body, said he wanted to make higher authorities aware of the case.

Five days before his death, Kevin Bradley had returned to South Africa to make arrangements for his marriage to Antoinette La Grange. The couple, *who met seven years* ago while working for a hotel and casino group, had set up home in Margate on the region's southern coast and were running a casino there.

On the night of her fiancé's death Miss La Grange had received a call from the casino *asking that Kevin go in to* help. He was waiting at traffic lights on his motorbike when an official traffic car, travelling fast, hit a stationary car in the next lane then rebounded and hit his motorbike, catapulting him 40 metres through the air. He died about 11 hours later in hospital after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

Antoinette La Grange: fiancée of the dead man



It was later alleged that blood samples taken from the off-duty traffic policeman, Pierre du Plessis, 24, indicated an alcohol level higher than that permitted by law. He was charged with culpable homicide but released on bail of 600 rand. Margate council, his employer since 1993, defended its decision not to suspend him on the ground that this would be tantamont to an admission of guilt.

Investigations by *The Times* have also revealed that Mr du Plessis is facing a charge of intent to cause grievous bodily harm relating to an incident in December last year when he was accused of being involved in beating up four Johannesburg students in Margate.

That case is due in court in February. The pre-trial hearing into Mr Bradley's death is scheduled for January 13.

Simon Bradley, the dead man's brother, said his father had been in contact with his MP, John Butterfill (C, Bournemouth W), who had *promised to take up the case* with the Foreign Office.

A spokesman in President Mandela's office said that the matter would be referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs and on to other departments if necessary.

☐ A man has been arrested in connection with the hijacking of two British tourists in the Transkei by a gang posing as police. The tourists were robbed and stripped at the roadside. Timothy Frost and Emma Isherwood also had their car, worth £22,000, taken.

Kevin Bradley, who died after his stationary motorbike was hit at traffic lights

Farmers trot out 3m fresh turkeys

BY ELENOR SALMOND

MOST supermarkets start selling their fresh turkeys today and the most popular price, at £2.59 a kilogram, is rather more expensive than last year. Some three million birds will be on sale within the next four days, though ten million households will buy cheaper, frozen birds, despite the verdict of a recent tasting organised by *The Times*, whose panel came out firmly in favour of fresh.

Promotions include:

Asda: garlic king prawns £3.49 for 300g, pork easy-carve leg joint £3.49, tiramisu (12-14 portions) £3.49 for 950g.

Budgens: Scottish smoked salmon £6.99 for 400g, Cooks Town large gammon joint, *smoked/unsmoked*, £4.99 per kg, clementines £1.19 kg.

Co-op: frozen North Atlantic prawns £2.79 for 400g, fresh topside or silverside of beef £1.78 lb, frozen roast potatoes £1.39 for 1.36 kg, fresh cream trifles £1.19 for 397g.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Dewhurst: turkeys from £1.18 lb frozen or £1.69 lb fresh, ducks from £1.39 lb frozen or £1.59 lb fresh, geese from £2.49 lb frozen or £2.99 lb fresh.

Harrods: turkey *boudin blanc* with cranberry £1.29 100g, with truffles £6.99 100g, pork *boudin blanc* with apples or chestnuts £1.29 100g.

Iceland: skinless chicken breast fillets £6.99 for 1.3 kg, whole boneless plaice £1.49 for 227g, buffet sausage rolls £1.99 for 100, Black Forest gateau £3.49 for 16 portions.

Marks & Spencer: frozen cocktail prawns £2.99 for 400g, six salmon fillets £7.99 for frozen and £8.99 for fresh, 12 profiteroles £1.69.

Safeway: Lincolnshire pork sausages £1.25 for 454g, honey roast wafer-thin ham £2.69 for 750g, half gammon on the bone, unsmoked £2.62 kg, six deep-filled mince pies 65p.

Sainsbury's: smoked salmon £6.95 for 400g, leg of lamb £5.99 kg, Connoisseur Christmas pudding £4.49 lb, luxury mincemeat £1.19 for 411g.

Somerfield: avocados 22p each, fresh whole turkey £2.59 kg, rolled sirloin of beef £8.35 kg, coleslaw 99p kg, sticky toffee pavlova £1.89 337g.

Tesco: rolled leg of pork £2.99 kg, whole salmon (2 lb-10 lb) £1.69 kg, white potatoes 99p 5 kg, sliced runner beans £1.29 for 200g, Conference pears £1.69 for 2 kg.

Waitrose: six boneless chicken breasts £6.49, pork chipolatas 69p for 227g, stuffed green olives 99p for 340g, 2 litres dairy vanilla ice cream £1.99, Belgian chocolate nut *truffles/bouchées* £2.89.

Founder of charity faces jail

Susan Howe, founder of the Cot Death Society, faces jail after being found guilty of stealing thousands of pounds from the society.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that Howe, 43, from Formby, Merseyside, used a concealed "welfare account" to pay donations of £36,872 into bank accounts belonging to her and her partner, Kevin Sullivan, 40. He was acquitted last week of the same charges. Howe will be sentenced on January 17.

Fiancée quizzed

Murder squad detectives were questioning the fiancée of Lee Harvey, 25, who was stabbed to death in an alleged "road rage" incident close to their home in Hereford and Worcester. Police arrested Tracie Andrews, 27, two weeks ago but she was admitted to hospital and they were unable to interview her.

Duchess mourns

The Duchess of York joined her father, Major Ronald Ferguson, and other members of her family at the funeral of her grandmother, Lady Elmhirst, at All Saints Church in Dummer, Hampshire. Lady Elmhirst, who was 88, died last week after a long illness. The Duchess read the lesson at the service.

Taxman case

David Shamoon, 66, a businessman, was cleared of providing a holiday for Michael Allcock, an Inland Revenue inspector, in return for tax favours. Two corruption charges *against* Mr Allcock, 47, were also dropped. He denies 11 similar charges. The case, at the Old Bailey, was adjourned until January 2.

Serb baby well

Leon Bu, the Serbian baby who has had heart surgery funded by a public appeal, is said to be "doing fine" in hospital. The four-month-old boy had a three-hour operation at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children to repair two holes in his heart. Nearly £11,000 was raised to pay for his treatment.

Lightning death

A farm worker died instantly when lightning struck his gold necklace. Paul Maroney, 20, was on a tractor trailer in West Auckland when the bolt struck in July. The tractor "jumped" and his shoes were blown off. An inquest jury at Darlington, Co Durham, returned a verdict of accidental death.

Post haste

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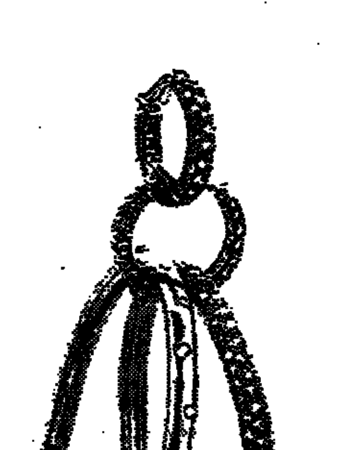

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Award may set precedent in sport

Footballer wins £¼m for tackle that ended career

By A Staff Reporter

A FOOTBALLER was awarded an estimated £250,000 damages in the High Court yesterday over an opponent's high tackle which broke his right leg and ended his career.

The award to Brian McCord, a former Stockport County player, is believed to be the first of its kind for injuries suffered on the field and could have a significant impact on all sports.

Mr Justice Ian Kennedy found that the Swansea City captain, John Cornforth, had made an error when challenging McCord for a loose ball during a game in Swansea in March 1993.

After the case Mr McCord, 28, said: "I am delighted with the judgment. I have been on income support since the accident and I was 100 per cent sure taking this action was the right thing to do. I will now be able to repay all the friends who have helped me get by and perhaps buy a few Christmas presents. But I would much rather that my career had been left intact."

The judge said that Mr Cornforth's tackle, in which he slid down on one leg with his right foot over the ball as the two players closed for a 50-50 challenge, was "an error which was inconsistent with his taking reasonable care" towards his opponent.

"But it does not follow that those who play football do not consent to the risk of injury. There are very few professional footballers who assert that they have never fallen below the standards expected of them and if they do they are not to be believed."

McCord: career ended by clash which broke his leg

Mr McCord, who is studying to become a physiotherapist, was awarded an immediate interim payment of £50,000 and the balance will be decided at a hearing in the New Year. John England, his solicitor, said the judgment was a landmark because there was no system for players to obtain compensation for injuries received during games.

He said: "It is a very important judgment which will have great ramifications throughout all professional sports. I believe it is time for the sporting bodies to devise some system of compensation without redress to the courts."

At a hearing last month, Mr McCord said that he assumed when he saw Mr Cornforth approaching that there would be a block tackle, when two players arrive at the ball at the same time. He added: "I didn't take my eye off the ball and I saw Mr Cornforth approach and as I made contact with the ball his leg was resting above the ball and the next thing I knew I saw my grossly deformed right leg."

Mr McCord, from Chaddesden, Derby, said he had always wanted to be a professional footballer and had left school aged 15 to sign as an apprentice with Derby County. He played for Derby, but was transferred to Barnsley and in 1992 signed for Stockport.

He told the judge: "I don't think there has been a day gone by when I don't think about the game and I miss it tremendously."

His counsel, Jonathan Crystal, said Mr McCord was entitled to damages from Mr Cornforth and Swansea City for pain and injury and loss of income because the tackle was "*extremely violent and illegal*".

Walter Williams, a policeman who was the match assessor for the Football League, said that in his view the tackle was among the worst three he had seen.

The judge said he had adopted the stance that an "ordinary, reasonable" spectator would take. He could understand the many witnesses who said Mr Cornforth was playing the man and not the ball but "that was not my conclusion", particularly having heard about his good reputation. However, he ruled that the tackle was "inconsistent" with taking reasonable care and it was one occasion when his skill "deserted him".

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said the case posed a dilemma. The PFA could ignore neither a player's rights to go to law nor the defendant being left isolated if the club's insurers refused to take responsibility. "We have looked at an arbitration method between players to avoid going to court and at no-fault insurance schemes but neither has proved possible."

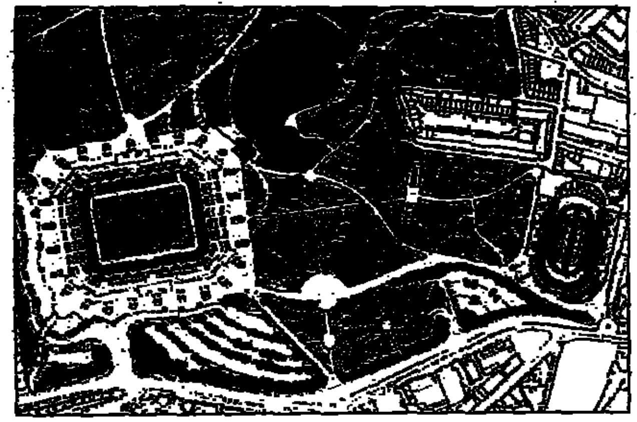
Newcastle goes public with £90m stadium

By Paul Wilkinson

PLANS for a controversial £90 million sports complex based on Newcastle United Football Club were unveiled yesterday.

The scheme will be funded from a £160 million stock market flotation, details of which will be announced next month and which will make the Premiership club the largest publicly quoted football business after Manchester United.

Conservationists immediately attacked the plans for a 55,000-seat glass-and-sandstone stadium on greenbelt land close to the existing ground at St James's Park. Both sides accept that the planned development of 50 acres at Castle Leazes and Leazes Park, on the edge of the city centre, will probably result in a public inquiry. Dolly Potter, chairman of Friends of Leazes Park, said: "They are the most important pieces of open space close to the city centre, not just for people living around there but for people working nearby. If they are lost the centre of Newcastle would become a much less attractive area to live and work."

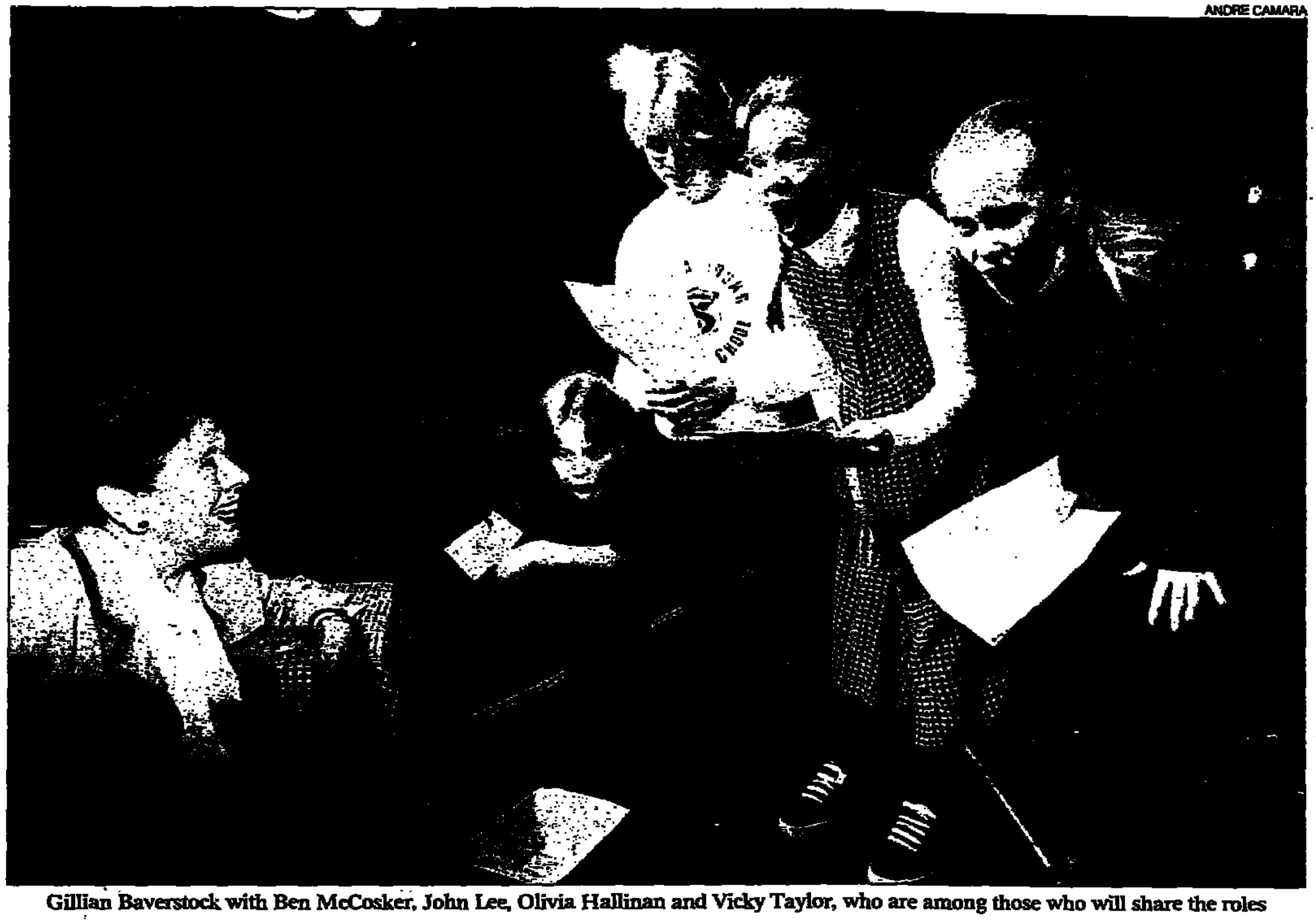

A plan of the proposed new stadium in Leazes Park. The club's existing site, right, will become an arena

Announcing the project yesterday, Sir John Hall, Newcastle's chairman, said: "We are aware of the concerns of the objectors, but the views of our fans need to be considered too. A lot of fans cannot get into St James's Park."

The project has been contentious ever since Sir John revealed his ideas for expanding the existing 36,500-seat ground to create a sporting club similar to those in Barcelona and Milan. His proposals include a new football stadium, the largest built in England since Wembley, and converting St James's Park into an arena with a 12,000-seat indoor athletics track, ice rink, offices and museum.

Earlier this year Sir John threatened to move the club out of the city if his plans were thwarted by council planners.

Sport, pages 36-40


ANDRE CAMARA

Gillian Baverstock with Ben McCosker, John Lee, Olivia Hallinan and Vicky Taylor, who are among those who will share the roles

Five go on stage to sing Enid Blyton's praises

By Alan Hamilton

GOSH, everybody, look! A secret passage at the back of a North London pub leading to an audition — how exciting! Though regarded as politically incorrect by some, Enid Blyton's Famous Five are alive and well and about to go on a national tour in a musical.

Yesterday Dan Crawford, the director, made his selection from nearly 800 young hopefuls for the parts of Julian the leader, George the tomboy, the irrepressible Dick and the sweetly feminine Anne. Timmy, the fifth member of the gang, will be played by Ben, a border collie, with two underdogs in case he falls sick.

According to Crawford, the continuing appeal of stories regarded by many as outdated and a bad influence is that they are cracking good yarns. "Enid Blyton was a very good writer and storyteller, and storytelling is three quarters of the secret of success."

The successful auditioners agreed. John Lee, an old trouper of 14 who appeared in the title role of *Oliver!* at the London Palladium and who is cast as Julian, thought the archaic language, with its goshes, spiffings and lashings of ginger beer, helped to establish an atmosphere of adventure. Olivia Hallinan, 12, who has appeared twice in ITV's *The Bill* and will play Anne, said: "Children should talk like that all the time, although when I do it my classmates at school think I'm a snob."

Gillian Baverstock, Blyton's elder daughter, has given the project her enthusiastic permission. "I am delighted; no one had ever thought of turning them into a musical before," she said. "Because the stories have few historical or geographical pointers, they have a universal and lasting appeal."

She dismisses reports, many originating from her younger sister, that Blyton was a difficult mother who disliked children. "I had an excellent relationship with her throughout her life. I do not agree with my sister's analysis of our childhood."

Producers of *The Famous Five!*, which opens in Leeds in February, were surprised to find that at least eight out of ten of those auditioned were already Blyton fans. To be weaned on Noddy, it appears, is to be hooked for life.

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Governors violated inmates' freedom of speech by trying to stop them protesting their innocence

Judge backs prisoners over interviews with media

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE ruled yesterday that restrictions on two murderers' access to the media were unlawful.

Mr Justice Latham allowed a challenge by the men, who contest their convictions, against rules on conversations with reporters. In a written judgment at the High Court, he said that a restriction stopping an inmate talking to a visiting journalist unless the writer undertook not to use material obtained was a curb on the right to free speech.

The judge overturned a decision by the former governor of Full Sutton top security jail near York that stopped the men receiving visits from journalists unless such an undertaking was given.

The judge said that the ban was not, on the evidence, "justified as the minimum interference with the right of free speech". Mr Justice Latham said that an appropriate undertaking could be devised to restrict topics of conversation during prison visits.

Ian Simms, convicted of murder in 1989, and Michael O'Brien, convicted of murder and robbery in 1988, had challenged the ban made under prison service standing orders. Simms, who failed in an appeal in 1990, had begun corresponding with Bob Woffinden, a journalist interested in miscarriages of justice.

He began visiting Simms to discuss his case and the two men became friends. But, after a report in a national newspaper, the mother of Helen McCourt, the murder victim, became distressed at the publicity, the judge said.

The governor at Full Sutton then required an undertaking from Mr Woffinden that he would no longer use material obtained during the visits for professional purposes. The governor at Long Lartin prison in Hereford and Worcester, where Simms is now an inmate, had confirmed that he required the same undertaking before visits would be allowed.

Mr Justice Latham said that in the second case O'Brien also protested his innocence and had written to many people and organisations to try to interest them in his case. Karen Voisey, a journalist, visited him several times at Long Lartin, but in December 1995 she was asked to sign an undertaking not to use the visit for professional purposes. She refused and was turned away.

The Home Office said the undertakings required from the journalists were a result of "the normal application" of prison service standing orders on communications and there was no significant interference with the prisoners' right of free speech.

The judge said one of the reasons given for the ban was the prison service's responsibility for preventing the communication by a prisoner of material which might cause further distress to the families of the victims of crime, or the victims themselves. They were were also concerned to restrict statements "likely to outrage the public at large".

The judge said in his 25-page ruling said: "There is no doubt that restrictions on visits are necessary for the proper regulation and management of prisons and for the treatment, discipline and control of inmates." But the courts had established that if the civil rights of an inmate were interfered with, then the law required it should be only minimum interference.

Michael Howard was given leave to appeal against the ruling, which the judge said concerned an important issue. A prison service spokeswoman said it was considering the judgment.

Mr Woffinden, author of a book, *Miscarriages of Justice*, described the ruling as "excellent — very good news for press freedom".

He added: "A lot of prisoners who have pressing concerns will now be able to inform the press about what those concerns are. It also means we will be able to behave more responsibly because we will be able to go and talk to all the people we need to talk to.

"A sense of justice and a sense of normality has been returned. The whole thing was totally illogical. The Home Office says prisoners can write to journalists but not talk to us in person. It's much more sensible for us to meet them in person and assess their *bona fides* for ourselves."

DIY LITIGANTS OVERWHELM APPEAL COURT

A SHARP rise in the number of people resorting to law without the help of lawyers is causing "acute" problems for the Court of Appeal, the *Master of the Rolls*, Lord Woolf, said yesterday. One in three applications to the Court of Appeal's civil division is by someone acting without a lawyer, compared with one in ten in 1989-90.

Lord Woolf: more cases

In his *review* of the court's civil division for 1995-96, Lord Woolf says the *number of cases has almost doubled*, from 456 in 1991-92 to 809 in 1995-96. Ninety per cent of these applications (which include leave to appeal and other procedural matters) fail.

The Court of Appeal is already struggling with a record workload, which is being reduced by lords justices working overtime and special "crash courts". *Lord Woolf notes: "The* number of outstanding applications (2,795 compared with 1,652 in 1991-92) cannot be allowed to continue." In 70 per cent of cases, there is a 14-month wait before appeals are heard.

Even though judges had disposed of 2,590 applications this year compared with 1,448 in 1991-92, there were still 1,384 applications outstanding at the end of this year.

To tackle the problem, the Bar has set up a *pro bono* unit where barristers offer their services free to people with certain kinds of case and the Lord Chancellor's Department has provided extra funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau within the Royal Courts of Justice *in the Strand*.

Letters, page 17

Injustice commission lacks members with relevant experience

■ Claims of wrongful conviction are to be heard by prosecution lawyers and a senior policeman, but nobody with a criminal defence background, Frances Gibb reports

THE new body set up to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice has attracted criticism for having virtually no members with experience in this area.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission, which will take over the Home Secretary's task of deciding which cases are to be referred to the Court of Appeal, will be established on New Year's Day and will take on casework from the end of March. Although the 14-strong commission contains a senior police officer and three lawyers with experience of prosecuting, there are no members with knowledge of criminal defence work.

The commission includes Fiona King, a former assistant chief crown prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS); David Kyle, chief crown prosecutor in the central casework unit at the CPS; and John Knox, formerly a deputy director at the Serious Fraud Office. Baden Skitt, Assistant Commissioner with the Metropolitan Police and former Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, is also a member.

Other lawyers who have been chosen include Laurence Elks, legal consultant with the City law firm Nabarro Nathanson and previously a partner there for nine years acting in acquisitions and joint ventures; and Professor Leonard Leigh, professor of criminal law at the London School of Economics.

Only Dr James MacKeith, a consultant forensic psychiatrist, has experience of miscarriage cases.

John Wadham, general secretary of the civil rights group Liberty, said yesterday: "We are disappointed with the list because we would have expected at least a minority of people to have some knowledge and experience of dealing with miscarriage-of-justice cases."

He said there should have been a solicitor or barrister with experience of a miscarriage of justice case, or a campaigner, or "even someone who was wrongly convicted". He added: "You need to be really determined to try to unpick what went wrong in these cases and, without that, the commission won't succeed in its job. But I am happy to be proved wrong."

The other members, announced in a written Parliamentary answer by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, include two more who are legally qualified: John Leckey, Coroner for Greater Belfast since 1992, and Jill Gort, VAT tribunal chairman.

The remaining members are Karamjit Singh, a Civil Service Commissioner and former member of the Police Complaints Authority; Edward Weiss, chairman of the Lloyds Syndicate Loss Reviews; Anthony Foster, former chief executive of ICI Chlorochemicals, and Barry Capon, recently retired chief executive of Norfolk County Council.

The commission will be chaired by Sir Frederick Crawford, a former vice-chancellor of Aston University. His appointment provoked criticism from lawyers earlier this year when it was discovered that he was high-ranking Freemason.

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Survival training equips dormice to face the wild

At risk: the dormouse

THE dormouse is disappearing so rapidly that soon the only survivor will be Lewis Carroll's comatose guest at the Mad Hatter's tea party. Immortalised in *Alice in Wonderland*, the dormouse is fast becoming a stranger in its native habitat (Daniel McGrory writes).

It has already vanished from seven northern and eastern counties of England and is hard to find elsewhere as its woodland habitat is destroyed. The dormouse seldom receives the attention given to more exotic species but Sue Fisher, head of conservation at the charity Tusk Force, said: "Extinction is no respecter of size and if We lecture other countries about their wildlife we have a duty to protect our native species."

In 1995 the charity began a programme of captive breeding in Devon. Before the dormice can be released into the wild they need to learn survival skills. At a "halfway house" in Winchester, in a semi-natural environment, the dormice learn how to forage and avoid predators.

In the Craigvinean Forest at Dunkeld in Scotland, Tusk Force is helping to fund a project to protect the red squirrel, which was so plentiful at the start of this century that it was viewed as a pest. Today, with only one red squirrel for every fifteen grey, there is a real possibility of extinction. The grey squirrel, which arrived from America at the end of last century, is tougher than its red cousin. Red squirrels love ripe hazelnuts but grey squirrels eat them before they are mature, leaving the reds to starve.

Tusk Force is also keen to protect the Scottish wildcat, which once thrived throughout Britain. Today it is a rarity even in its last stronghold in the Highlands. Scientists say they have no idea how many wildcats remain and Tusk Force is working with the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University to study its habitat and rescue it from the shadow of extinction.

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La Dolce Vita star 'was perhaps Europe's greatest cinema actor of the past 50 years'

Trevi Fountain switched off as Italy mourns Mastroianni

For female fans, the romantic Mastroianni, right, was a cinematic legend who will always be the enduring embodiment of the Latin lover, writes **Richard Owen**

"I FEEL death at my back," Marcello Mastroianni said in May. "I feel it breathing down my neck." It came for him yesterday in Paris, at the age of 72.

But for the millions of female fans who know him as Il Bel Marcello, he will always be the enduring embodiment of the Latin lover, a smile cracking his handsome features, his clothes elegantly cut, a cigarette dangling nonchalantly from his fingers.

The news dominated Italian television bulletins, with an announcer declaring: "Italy has lost one of its greatest postwar sons." The Trevi Fountain in Rome, where Mastroianni splashed so memorably with the statuesque Anita Ekberg in *La Dolce Vita*, was switched off and covered in black crepe in a mark of national mourning.

He was "perhaps the greatest European cinema actor of the past 50 years", the producer Daniel Toscan du Plantier said in Paris. He will also be eternally linked with the other great Italian cinema legend of the past half-century, Sophia Loren, who epitomises Italian female beauty in the way Mastroianni personified the charm of the Italian male. They starred together in *La Dolce Vita*, Fellini's 1960 masterpiece, and afterwards in numerous other classics, including *Marriage Italian Style*, *The Priest's Wife*, and *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, in which Loren performed her memorable striptease for a stunned and gaping Mastroianni.

So much did they come to be seen as the ideal Italian couple that many were convinced their relationship was as intimate off screen as on. Mastroianni denied this to his biographer, Enzo Biagi, this year, shortly before he turned 72 in September.

"I know the public thinks of me and Sophia Loren as either married or lovers," he said. "It is true we have gone through life together. But nothing happened between us."

But "the public" still wondered, and in a sense it may not matter. "What matters is that he held the world's most beautiful women in his arms," Signor Biagi said yesterday.

The actress Monica Vitti said that he had been "the sweetest, most lighthearted of actors" and "a great friend".

Mastroianni had a number of affairs and lived for a long period with Catherine Deneuve, by whom he had a daughter, the actress Chiara Mastroianni. Both she and his other daughter Barbara, by his wife Flora, were at his bedside when he died.

Despite his many mistresses, Mastroianni remained married to the long-suffering Flora, and steadfastly refused to speak about "the most intimate things in my life, the most secret".

He was, to the end, as discreet, modest and private as he was heartbreakingly handsome. He thought nothing of his looks: "I am not handsome and never have been," he once said. "I have an ordinary face, the face of a country bumpkin." He was proud of his peasant origins in a mountain village near Rome, and of his tough boyhood.

It was only after the war that acting took over his life. His stage debut in 1948 was alongside Giulietta Masina, the wife of Federico Fellini, who went on to direct Mastroianni — "my alter ego" — not only in *La Dolce Vita* but also *8½* and *Ginger and Fred*.

Mastroianni was still acting on stage this year, in *The Last Moons* by the Italian playwright Furio Bordon, to rapturous receptions. He celebrated his last birthday in Portugal on the set of *Voyage to the Beginning of the World*, a film by the director Manoel de Oliveira.

"I could have applied myself more, done better" he said. "But I've been very lucky. Perhaps my secret is that I have loved life. Deep down I still feel young — just a kid, really."

Obituary, page 19

LAURENT REBOURS/AP

Catherine Deneuve, right, and daughter Chiara after Mastroianni's death yesterday

Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott-Thomas in *The English Patient*, nominated for seven awards

'English Patient' tops Golden Globe list

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A FILM about the English at war has won seven nominations for next month's Golden Globe awards, more than any other film.

Among other nominations, *The English Patient*, a drama set in North Africa and Tuscany during the Second World War, has received those for acting for Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott-Thomas, its British stars. It is also nominated for Best Drama and Best Director.

Other leading films in the build-up to the fifty-fourth Golden Globes, still viewed as a stepping stone to the Oscars despite damaging recent charges of corruption, include *Shine*, *Evita* and *The People vs. Larry Flynt*. *Secrets and Lies*, Mike Leigh's film about south London life, has won nominations in the Best Drama category. Britons Brenda Blethyn (Best Actress) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (Best Supporting Actress) are also nominated.

Liam Neeson is named as a candidate for Best Actor for his controversial leading role in *Michael Collins*, a film about the Irish Republican activist.

Lauren Bacall and Britain's Paul Scofield are nominated for their supporting roles in *The Mirror Has Two Faces* and *The Crucible* respectively. Alan Parker, the Los Angeles-based British director, is nominated for his work on *Evita*: Madonna is nominated in the musicals category for her starring role.

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DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Bardot denies race hate in attack on Muslim sheep rite

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

BRIGITTE BARDOT took a leading role in a Paris courtroom yesterday to answer allegations that a newspaper article, in which she claimed France was being overrun by sheep-slaughtering Muslims, was an incitement to racial hatred.

In an opinion piece for *Le Figaro* in April, the cinematic sex-kitten-turned-animal rights campaigner attacked the Muslim ritual of sheep slaughter during the feast of Eid al-Kebir. France, she said, was being swamped with foreigners. The two principal *anti-racist groups in France* filed a lawsuit accusing her of illegally inciting racism against Muslims. She faces *fines of Fr300,000 (£37,000)* and up to a year in prison if convicted.

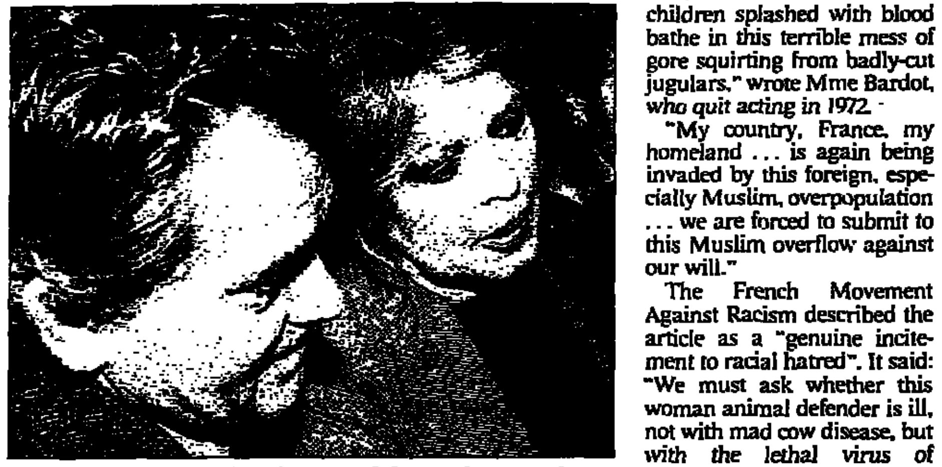
Mme Bardot's lawyer said that she wanted to make a personal appearance to explain her views, and planned to call three witnesses: an animal film-maker, a vet and an animal welfare official.

The 62-year-old animal rights activist has often voiced right-wing views and in newly published memoirs she des*cribed Jean-Marie Le Pen*, leader of the extreme-right National Front, as a charming and cultivated man. M Le Pen recently declared racial inequality "a fact", prompting Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to accuse him of being "deeply, viscerally racist".

In her article Mme Bardot described herself as "a Frenchwoman of ancient stock" and threatened to leave France because it tolerates the Muslim sheep-killing ritual, which she described in graphic, almost hysterical, terms. "Tens of thousands of poor beasts have their throats slit . . . while children splashed with blood bathe in this terrible mess of gore squirting from badly-cut jugulars," wrote Mme Bardot, *who quit acting in 1972.*

"My country, France, my homeland . . . is again being invaded by this foreign, especially Muslim, overpopulation . . . we are forced to submit to this Muslim overflow against our will."

The French Movement Against Racism described the article as a "genuine incitement to racial hatred". It said: "We must ask whether this woman animal defender is ill, not with mad cow disease, but *with the lethal virus of* racism."



Bardot with her husband, Bernard d'Ormale, yesterday

Rafsanjani bolsters ties with Turkey

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran was greeted with full *military honours on his arrival* in Turkey yesterday, where he began top-level talks on the construction of a $23 billion *(£14 billion) gas pipeline* the two countries are to build in defiance of US pressure.

In an important first visit to a Nato neighbour that breaks Iran's isolation, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani underlined Iran's growing ties with the Islamic Government of Necmettin Erbakan. President Demirel said important trade and economic results would be achieved during the four days.

Mr Erbakan visited Iran during his first overseas trip after taking office, *signing the* pipeline deal days after President Clinton announced a law imposing sanctions on any *country investing more than* $40 million a year in the energy industries of Iran or Libya.

The deal's first stage was initiated last week with the announcement of a tender to construct a 190-mile stretch from the Iranian border to the Turkish town of Ezurum.

However there are lingering tensions between Ankara and Tehran over Turkey's renewed $600 million military agreement with Israel concerning *the modernisation of Turkish* F4 fighter-bombers.

Zoë Efsthatiou and her husband, Demetris. They agreed to abort some of the foetuses to give the others a better chance

Fertility treatment gave wife 11 embryos

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

A CYPRIOT housewife expecting a record 11 babies after fertility treatment has been given an 80 per cent chance of saving four of them. Doctors planned to terminate three embryos yesterday and said four more would be aborted over the next two weeks.

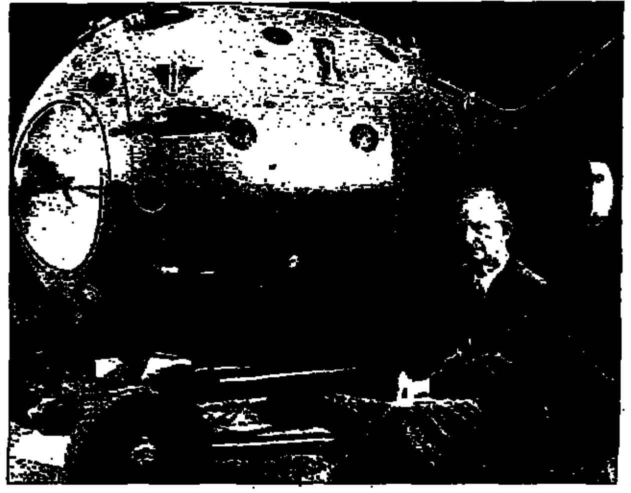
"If there was any way I could have kept *them all, I would have loved to," said Zoë* Efsthatiou, 23. Her doctor, Andreas Pat*salides, insisted there was no chance all* could survive. "Now there is a 75 to 80 per cent chance of survival for three or four of them and this will increase after the twenty-fifth week of pregnancy," he said.

There is a possibility that Mrs Efsthatiou, who is ten weeks pregnant, and her husband Demetris, 27, an accountant, could be expecting even more babies. "Because so many are cramped into such a small place it was *difficult to determine the exact number.* There is a possibility we may find some *more. But already this is the first* documented case worldwide of so many multiple embryos," said Dr Patsalides.

In October a British woman, Mandy Allwood, 32, who was pregnant with eight foetuses after fertility treatment, lost all of them in less than 48 hours. The Cypriot couple had sought advice from her gynaecologist, Dr Kypros Nicolaides, a Cypriot who originally comes from their home town of Paphos.

The couple already have a two-year-old girl, again after fertility treatment.

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS



Yuri Khariton with a copy of Russia's first A-bomb

A-bomb pioneer dies

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA was in mourning yesterday after the death of Professor Yuli Khariton, the father of the Soviet atom bomb and one of the key Cold War figures.

Professor Khariton, aged 92, died early yesterday at *Arzamas-16, the secret city* 300 miles east of Moscow that he founded 50 years ago as the centre of the country's nuclear weapons programme. *His body is expected to be flown to* Moscow where it will be buried with full state honours at the Novodevichy Convent — the cemetery of the elite.

"It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of Yuli Khariton, who made enormous contributions in the development of atomic science and technology and created *the nuclear shield for our* motherland," the Ministry of Atomic Energy said.

Obituary, page 19

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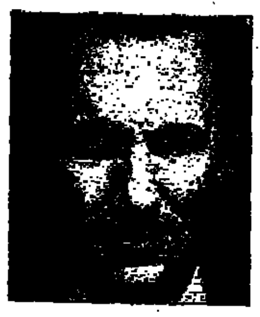
THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



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Anatole Kaletsky reviews his 1996 predictions
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Alive, well and playing: guitarist Peter Green is back
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SPORT
Lynne Truss comes face to face with Eric Cantona
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

Halifax spending a little Xtra £413m on flotation

BY ANNE ASHWORTH AND CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Halifax Building Society has revealed that its metamorphosis into the 30th biggest bank in the world will cost £413 million — £46 for every borrower and saver.

The total is made up of two elements: £260 million of costs associated with the Leeds Building Society merger and £153 million in conversion expenses, including fees to lawyers and merchant bankers.

The society will make its stock market debut next June in a £10 billion conversion. Nine million investing and borrowing members will receive an average payout of £1,000 in free Halifax shares.

More than half of the conversion expenses, some £75 million, will be spent on communicating with these members. Each mailing costs around £5 million but the distribution of voting packs containing transfer documents and voting papers early next month will be a £10-£20 million operation. It will involve 13 mailing houses and eight printing companies, approximately 60 per cent of the printing capacity of the UK, while the Post Office will lay on 60 Royal Mail lorries to work non-stop for eight days.

The transfer document giving full details of the conversion, runs to some 150 pages. To spare a few trees, the Halifax sought Building Societies Commission approval to produce an abbreviated version but was refused.

Gary Marsh, assistant general manager of the Halifax, explained that the other half of the £153 million in conversion expenses would be spent on advertising, reprinting leaflets and removing the words "building society" from its signs. He would not disclose payments to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising on the conversion. But a senior executive of another firm speculated that the bill would be £10-£20 million, with the bank offering its services at reduced cost in the hope of securing profitable work from the Halifax after flotation. Linklaters & Paines, the City lawyers acting for the Halifax, charges about £500 an hour.

Reorganisation and restructuring accounted for the bulk of the £260 million Leeds merger total.

Although some money is being spent on opening, closing and enlarging branches, the information technology outlay has been greater as the Halifax works to integrate its largely IBM-based system and the Leeds's mainly Unisys system, a process that has been a struggle at times.

The interim accounts include an exceptional provision of £51.5 million for losses on the disposal of computer equipment. The conversion cost figures were released yesterday with interim accounts for the Halifax showing profits before tax of £752 million for the nine months to October 31. The accounts have been specially prepared for inclusion in the transfer document.

Delay on payout to Lloyd's names

BY JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London has admitted that it has run into serious delays in paying out funds under its ambitious recovery plan.

It has also admitted that about 4,000 names will have to pay more to settle their dues at Lloyd's, because of adverse movements on the currency exchanges. It denied that the delays threaten a knock-on effect in the insurance market.

Ron Sandler, chief executive, has written to names to apologise for setbacks to the payment timetable, and saying that "no effort is being spared" to bring the process back on track. In his letter, Mr Sandler admits that it had not been possible to settle with members by mid-December as intended.

Mr Sandler does not give a reason for the delay, other than referring in general terms to the "complex" nature of the accounting programmes involved. He adds: "I feel sure that you will understand our concern to ensure that these processes are followed diligently and, with the benefit of hindsight, perhaps our timetable was over optimistic."

Mr Sandler says the delays are not linked to attempts to collect funds from refusenik names. Lloyd's set out to recover nearly £500 million from 1,850 names in the UK, US and Canada, but the amount has fallen as members have requested talks. A test case involving debt recoveries continues in London today.

The admissions are an embarrassment to Lloyd's, which has been quick to emphasise the importance of timetables when seeking money from members. It insists, however, that the Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) plan remains on course. Some 8,200 out of 12,000 names eligible to receive a rebate from Lloyd's under the settlement offer have now been paid. Lloyd's has paid about £260 million out of an expected distributable surplus of more than £400 million.

Lloyd's would not comment yesterday on reports of widespread computer problems linked to R&R payments. Some names are reported to have received £10,000 more than they were owed, while others have received £10,000 less.

Lloyd's conceded that the rise in value of the pound against the dollar would result in increased "finality" payments for names on syndicates that have written business in dollar terms. About 4,000 names out of 34,000 worldwide are thought to be affected. It will not affect accepting names who have already paid.

Lloyd's would not elaborate on whether steps had been taken to hedge against the risk of currency movements. It said the potential for increased payments had been spelt out in the settlement offer document. A spokesman confirmed that a number of names who had accepted and owe money to Lloyd's had yet to settle their dues. They had been granted time to settle their affairs. According to some reports, as many as 1,700 names are involved.

It seems inevitable that the delays will spill over into the new year. There are fears in some quarters that this threatens a knock-on effect for large insurance brokers, who could face a situation where their tax liabilities exceed their net assets. The tax implications would be pursued directly with members' agents, increasing uncertainty in the market.

Mr Sandler wrote to names early last month, flagging "slight delays" in the R&R timetable. The intention was to complete the distribution process "as far as possible" by the end of the year.

Lawyer taking monopolies job

DENISE KINGSMILL, above, the lawyer who once represented George Walker, is to be a deputy chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Jon Ashworth writes). Mrs Kingsmill, 49, will be one of three deputies at the MMC, and the first woman to hold the post, when she starts in the £68,000-a-year job next September.

She will work with Graham Corbett, 62, former chief financial officer of Eurotunnel, who joins the MMC in May. A former senior partner in Peat Marwick in Paris, Mr Corbett will be paid £51,000 for working three days a week. Mrs Kingsmill will still act as a consultant to Denton Hall, the City law firm. Born in New Zealand, and raised in Wales, she has worked in the law since 1979, specialising in industrial relations and corporate governance. As a partner in DJ Freeman, she acted for Mr Walker after his ousting by Brent Walker's bankers in 1991. She said the MMC role "comes right to the heart of business".

Dunn & Co back in hands of receiver

BY JASON NISSÉ

DUNN & CO, the menswear retailer specialising in hats and tweed, has collapsed for the second time in six years.

KPMG was appointed yesterday as receiver to Dunn, which employes 429 staff and has 130 stores, mostly in Wales and the South West of England.

The company was only created in June 1994 when a team of managers from Yorkshire bought the Dunn name, along with 40 of its stores, and merged it with their own group, Hodge. It has struggled as its customers, though loyal, are a small and declining group of the population.

Previously the retailer, which was created in 1888, had been liquidated by its owners, the Dunn pension fund, and the shops not sold on to Hodge were put into a property company.

MG investors await compensation news

BY ROBERT MILLER

MORE than 90,000 investors in Morgan Grenfell's troubled European unit trusts are today expected to hear details of how their compensation will be calculated.

The exercise is likely to cost Morgan Grenfell, owned by Deutsche Bank of Germany, more than £200 million. Investors should receive their cheques before Easter, next year. The compensation is in addition to the £180 million already handed over by Deutsche to cover the more illiquid stocks held in two funds run by Peter Young who was dismissed for "gross misconduct" and who is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation.

Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, is looking at the use of investors' money to buy shares in the illiquid unquoted stocks in breach of City rules. Morgan Grenfell faces a hefty fine, which could top the previous record of £750,000 levied on Invesco over the Maxwell affair. Certain senior executives in charge of Mr Young also face fines and possible bans from working in the City for a period.

Pennington, page 23

Asda keeps it simple .. and very profitable

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ARCHIE NORMAN, chairman of Asda, said yesterday that the supermarket group will stick to the "simple business of shopkeeping" rather than follow its rivals into financial services and loyalty cards.

Mr Norman, who is also the Conservative Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Tunbridge Wells, said: "Everyone in the industry is looking for other things to do on the periphery. I do not rule them out, but real success is concentrating on fresh food, value for money and service."

Asda is continuing to test a loyalty card in 20 stores, but has no immediate plans to introduce it nationwide because of the high cost, he said. All of Asda's main rivals — Tesco, J Sainsbury and Safeway — have their own nationwide loyalty card schemes and offer a range of financial services.

Mr Norman was speaking as he revealed profits for the six months to November 9 up 15.8 per cent, to £160 million. Like-for-like sales were 10.2 per cent ahead, by the far the best in the sector. Earnings per share were 15.7 per cent higher at 4.06p, and the interim dividend was raised 12.5 per cent to 0.81p. It is payable on April 2.

Allan Leighton, who has taken over as chief executive from Mr Norman, said the company is putting more emphasis on its clothing, which is sold under the George brand name. Clothing sales were 35 per cent ahead, with children's wear sales up 40 per cent and women's outerwear up 50 per cent. The other area set for expansion within the stores is fresh foods, which had 15 per cent higher sales. Asda opened two stores in the first half, will open a further seven this financial year and plans seven large stores per year for the next three years.

Pennington, page 23

GKN faces $400m suit over US subsidiary

BY OLIVER AUGUST

GKN, the engineering and defence group, faces a damages bill of about $400 million after a US exhaust subsidiary lost a class action suit.

The 1996 accounts will be hit by an appropriate provision pending further clarification of the complicated judgment, the group said. It called the judgment a setback in its financial position but emphasised that the agreed dividend for 1996 will not change.

A GKN statement said: "We are extremely surprised at the outcome which we believe to be wholly unreasonable and will appeal following delivery of the judgment.

"The judgment in the case will not be issued until post-verdict issues and procedures have been resolved and this could take some weeks. The issues still to be determined could result in a substantial modification of the award."

At face value the aggregate amount awarded by a North Carolina court is $398 million. It is possible that damages could be reduced on judgment or increased to a maximum of $554 million. Some parts of the claim are covered by the North Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act which allows for trebling of penalties.

The case concerns alleged breaches of contract and other claims about advertising activities brought by franchisees of the Meineke Discount Muffler Shops.

The action was also brought against New Horizons, Meineke's subsidiary; GKN Parts Industries, its immediate parent company; GKN, its ultimate parent; and three US resident offices of Meineke.

GKN shares fell sharply after the company's announcement, closing at £10.09½, down from £10.45.

Tempus, page 24

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4051.3	(+33.1)
Yield	3.93%	
FTSE All share	1979.85	(+14.54)
Nikkei	19570.67	(−522.36)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6399.83	(+53.06)*
S&P Composite	737.84	(+6.30)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 5/16%*	(5 7/8%)
Long Bond	98 1/32*	(97 11/32)
Yield	6.65%*	(6.70%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 3/8%	(6 3/8%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	109 1/16	(108 11/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6625*	(1.6740)
London:		
$	1.6625	(1.6725)
DM	2.5936	(2.5998)
FFr	8.7626	(8.7860)
SFr	2.2264	(2.2273)
Yen	189.59	(190.10)
£ Index	94.1	(94.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5550*	(1.5515)
FFr	5.2514*	(5.2430)
SFr	1.3350*	(1.3290)
Yen	113.93*	(113.68)
$ Index	98.5	(98.2)

Tokyo close Yen 113.90

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$23.20	($23.25)

GOLD

London close	$369.05	($369.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Flying high

Shares in Airtours jumped 39½p to a record high of 786½p after the tour operator announced plans with its US partner Carnival Corporation to buy Costa, the biggest cruise line in Europe based in Genoa. **Page 23**

Metal bashing

The Securities and Investments Board issued a seven-point plan to raise "standards of market integrity delivered by the London Metals Exchange" but after the report was published Labour called for big changes in the way metal markets are run. **Page 22**

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هكذا في الأصل

Waterford buys 9% stake in Rosenthal

From Eileen McCabe in Dublin

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the crystal and china company, put an end to months of speculation yesterday when it confirmed that it is taking a 9.1 per cent stake in Rosenthal, the German porcelain group.

Under the deal Waterford Wedgwood, which is chaired by Tony O'Reilly, will acquire 60,000 new Rosenthal shares at or close to the prevailing market price.

The Irish company said that it also has options to acquire a further 15 per cent of Rosenthal over the next four years.

Waterford Wedgwood declined to put a value on its stake, but market analysts in Dublin said that based on Rosenthal's current share price, the 9.1 per cent stake is worth around Ir£2.5 million.

Although the two companies operate in the luxury goods sector, their products are not in direct competition and they already have distribution agreements in several markets.

As well as strengthening those marketing ties, the new alliance will also give them scope to collaborate on manufacturing.

Earlier this year Rosenthal adopted a restructuring programme in an effort to cut costs after it recorded losses of more than Ir£7 million in 1995. In contrast, Waterford Wedgwood is expected to report operating profits of around Ir£39 million for 1996.

Dr O'Reilly said yesterday that he was confident that the new alliance would help to restore the German group to profitability.

TONY WHITE

Raj Bagri, left, the chairman of the LME, and David King, its chief executive, yesterday after the SIB announced the results of its review

Firms face tighter regulation and control over metal trades

By Robert Miller

FIRMS who trade on the London Metal Exchange (LME) will be subject to tighter and more transparent disciplinary and regulatory procedures, the City's chief watchdog said yesterday.

Unveiling the results of a six-month review of the LME after the $2.8 billion Sumitomo copper scandal, the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) outlined a seven-point plan "to enhance standards of market integrity delivered by the LME".

Sumitomo announced in June that it had lost billions of dollars on the world's copper markets and blamed its former chief trader Yasuo Hamanaka, known as Mr 5 Per Cent for the portion of the world's copper market he accounted for. At the request of Raj Bagri and David King, respectively chairman and chief executive of the LME, the SIB launched its review.

The SIB, headed by Sir Andrew Large, said that it wanted "an urgent and thorough review by the LME of its governance, so that it is clear that conflicts of interest are avoided and that it is run in the interests of the full range of its users and members".

The chief City watchdog is aware that to many outsiders, and even inside regulatory circles, the perception of the LME is that it does not appear to have enough independent voices on its 16-strong board of directors or on the exchange's executive.

The SIB said that it wanted "an increase in the role, authority and resources of the LME Executive, to enable it better to meet the challenges of running and regulating a successful world market".

Last year the 120-year old LME, which has grown by 700 per cent in the past eight years, traded more than $2.5 trillion worth of metals — chiefly copper, but also aluminium, zinc, lead, tin and nickel. More than 90 per cent of the world's copper is traded through the London exchange.

One of the biggest problems facing City regulators is that many of the largest copper trades, including a number of Sumitomo's previous deals, are done off-market through offshore centres and are therefore harder to monitor. To address this key issue, the SIB has called for "enhanced monitoring with strengthened large position reporting, more and suitably experienced staff and more extensive use of technology".

The review recommends that the up-dated technology should also be used to police some of the 400 warehouses worldwide where the physical copper is stored.

On the discipline and enforcement aspect of the LME's work the SIB says "we recommend that in future it [he LME] establishes and enforces a policy of pursuing disciplinary action where rule breaches are identified".

The LME welcomed the review, although Mr Bagri said: "You can never stop people going berserk, being greedy or just plain foolish."

Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary, said: "Self-regulation failed in the Sumitomo case. The LME must now make urgent changes if it is to esnure its future as a recognised investment exchange. However, the LME was not responsible for most of the scandal."

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Battle for Northern nearing its finale

THE bitter fight for control of Northern Electric ends at *lunchtime today*. The signs indicate a knife-edge battle until the conclusion between Northern and CE Electric, the American group mounting a £782 million hostile bid, and the takeover may be decided by a last-minute consensus from institutions. It is likely that a range of institutions will consult each other on what offers the *better value and the decision* could end up a 60/40 split, either way. Schroders and BZW, Northern's advisers, yesterday continued to inflame CE Electric by buying Northern shares in the market. They bought 100,000 more shares, adding 0.1 per cent to a 2.3 per cent stake purchased the previous day.

Several large *institutions* — controlling about 15 per cent of Northern's shares — have pledged public support for the company's rejection of the 650p-a-share bid as too low, while small shareholders, controlling about 19 per cent of Northern's equity, are thought to be largely loyal. CE Electric has acceptances for more than 4 per cent of *the shares and owns 29 per cent, which it* bought in the market.

Mortgage fraud curb

THE Government has brought in new legislation aimed at curbing mortgage fraud. The new law will now mean that it is illegal to obtain a money transfer by deception, or to retain credits from dishonest sources. The new legislation means that it will be possible to prosecute in cases of fraud which involve the electronic transfer of funds between *accounts or a transfer using* a cheque. Any such transfers might include mortgages, advances, loans or grants.

Optimism for Laporte

SHARES of Laporte, the chemicals company that suffered a 50 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits, rose 27p to 661½p after reporting better news on second-half trading. It said: "The international spread in our business together with the strong market and technology positions in specialist continue to provide the base from which solid progress will be achieved for the year as a whole." Sterling's strength will have little effect on 1996 results, although had the current exchange rate prevailed for the whole year an extra £6 million would have been lost.

Bardon lifts stake

BARDON GROUP increased its shareholding in Bruntcliffe Aggregates, the rival building materials group, to 22.7 per cent, after exercising options to purchase shares from two former directors of Bruncliffe and Mineral & General Investments, a Jersey trust. Bardon already has convertible loan stock that could be swapped for another 5.05 per cent of Bruntcliffe. Close watchers of the situation expect that an offer for the rest of Bruntcliffe could take place in the new year.

Tring in the red

LITIGATION cost Tring International, the budget music company that has been in dispute with K-tel over alleged copyright violations, £400,000 and helped to push it £2.4 million into the red (£1.44 million profit) in the six months to September 30. There is no interim dividend. The loss is partly because of poor trading in the summer, but also includes £2.6 million exceptional charges. The dispute with K-tel has been settled. Philip Keane is to step down at the end of January as *Tring's finance director.*

Tempus, page 24

CSX raises Conrail bid

CSX, the US transport conglomerate, has raised its bid for *Conrail in a further effort to defeat rival Norfolk Southern.* Conrail shareholders would receive an extra $16 per share in convertible preferred shares as part of the portion of CSX's offer covered by shares. The offer is 60 per cent shares and 40 per cent cash. The increase raises the total value of the $8.5 billion offer by $870 million. Management is recommending acceptance, even though Norfolk Southern is offering more in an all-cash offer, worth $10 billion or $110 per share.

Acatos profits steady

ACATOS & HUTCHESON, *the edible oils and fats manufacturing group*, reported a modest rise in pre-tax profits to £7.7 million for the year ending September 29, from £7.6 million, in the previous year. Operating profits were lifted to £9.1 million from £6.7 million, before exceptional items, but the group's turnover was down to £282 million from £294 million. Earnings per share rose to 14.6p from 12.2p. The total dividend is raised to 10p from 9p with a 6.5p final due on April 7.

Henri Wintermans sold

BAT Industries has sold the Henri Wintermans Cigar Group to Denmark's Skandinavisk Tobakskompagni for £55 million, creating one of Europe's largest manufacturers of cigars. BAT said the sale would result in a small pre-tax profit. Existing sales and distribution relationships would be maintained. BAT, whose shares closed 20p up at 486½, holds a 32.15 per cent stake in Skandinavisk Tobakskompagni, which processes cigarettes, roll-your-own and pipe tobacco and also owns Nobel Cigars.

Ruberoid disposal

SHARES of Ruberoid, the all-weather protective systems company, fell 10p to 101p yesterday after it withdrew from its French contracting operations with the sale of Tocover, its subsidiary, for an estimated £300,000. The French contracting operations incurred a pre-tax loss of £300,000 on turnover of £13.3 million last year and are expected to show a pre-tax loss of £800,000 this year. Ruberoid is expected to lose £1.4 million on the sale. The company is also selling its contracting business in Belgium.

Generators retain supply incentives

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

INCENTIVE payments to generators to ensure continuity of supply are to remain throughout the winter despite presssure from the regulator's office and large energy users.

The new set of payments were implemented by the electricity pool at the behest of the Department of Trade and Industry and are designed to limit instability caused by the use of gas contracts that can be interrupted. These contracts give fuel at cheaper prices but can be switched off by the suppliers who, along with British Gas's pipeline network, have given warning that interruptions are likely this winter. Generators, who already receive payments related to power station availability, now enjoy extra payments for turning to alternative fuels and for keeping extra staff on call.

The regulator's office has urged the pool to look at a longer-term solution to security of supply "expeditiously" because of concern that the generators can arbitrage between the gas and electricity markets. Theoretically, the payments would reward them for pushing gas into the gas market and then switching to oil or other fuels.

A spokeswoman for Offer, the electricity watchdog, said: "Offer is very keen that the pool works on a long-term solution." John Saunders, director of regulation and business affairs at Offer, is believed to have told large energy users' groups that the pool has been pressed on urgent action to ensure that customers are not exploited.

But a spokesman for the electricity pool said there was no deadline for a fresh method to ensure security of supply and that the pool was not convinced of a problem in the system.

Pool troubles, page 25

Gallaher to close factory

ALMOST 1,000 jobs are to be lost with the closure of Gallaher's cigarette factory at Hyde in Manchester, it was announced yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

The company is to concentrate UK production at a single site in Northern Ireland, where an additional 300 jobs will be created over the next three to four years.

The restructuring will give rise to a £70 million charge. In addition, £40 million is to be invested in Northern Ireland to install high-speed machinery.

Gallaher closed a factory in Belfast in 1988 and another at Port Talbot, South Wales, in 1994. It has cut its distribution branches from eight to one since 1991.

Gallaher is expected to be demerged from American Brands, its parent company, in mid-1997, when it will seek a stock market listing in London.

Rail link builders prepare for float

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

A £1 billion stock market flotation to finance the Channel Tunnel *Rail Link*, Britain's biggest mainland civil engineering project since the war, will go ahead within the next 18 months, the builders of the high-speed route declared yesterday.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), the consortium including Virgin Group and National Express that was chosen by the Government to build the 68-mile link from north London to the Channel Tunnel, said that the rest of the money would be raised from bond issues and bank debt.

Construction costs are estimated at £2.835 billion, at 1995 prices, but financing costs will take the total soaring past £3 billion.

The consortium, which also operates the 186mph Eurostar trains between London, Paris and Brussels, will eventually be able to claim £1.4 billion of the costs back from the Government.

Sir Derek Hornby, the chairman of LCR, said that last month's Channel Tunnel fire would not affect the company's long-term plans, in spite of the two-week closure of the tunnel and the six-month disruption to services. "We are regarding this as an isolated case, which is already showing marked signs of improvement," he said.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Sir Derek Hornby, left, with John Watts, Transport Minister

IBC wins £180m deal for new Euro van

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Editor

BRITISH workers have beaten international competition to win an £180 million deal to build a new van for Europe. The investment is worth an extra 900 jobs for the IBC plant at Luton, Bedfordshire.

IBC bid for the deal against competition from Renault plants in France and Opel companies in Germany, which belong to the same General Motors group as IBC, part of Vauxhall Motors.

The announcement came as national figures showed car and commercial vehicle output from British manufacturers up in November by 2.28 per cent at 153,493. The figures masked a slump at home and a boom abroad: car production for export was ahead 19.24 per cent last month but shipments overseas of commercial vehicles jumped 123 per cent.

The co-operative deal means Renault will provide 2.5 to 3.5 tonne vans — badged separately as the Renault Trafic and Vauxhall Arena — until assembly lines at Luton are ready to take the new vehicle at the turn of the century.

Nick Reilly, Vauxhall chairman, said: "This agreement will allow Vauxhall to fully compete in the most buoyant sector of the UK van market. It is also of the utmost significance to the long-term future of our IBC plant at Luton as it will substantially increase the company's role as a European vehicle supplier."

Bank of Scotland
Mortgages Direct

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following rates for mortgages provided by Bank of Scotland, Mortgages Direct will apply as from 2nd January 1997 for both new and existing borrowers.

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Bank of Scotland
Mortgages Direct Preferential Variable Rate
6.74% per annum.

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Mystery Arizona fan buys a stake in Chelsea

Chairman scores on options

By Jason Nisse

KEN BATES, chairman of Chelsea Village, which owns Chelsea football club, yesterday made a £375,000 profit on a deal to sell a 5.8 per cent stake in the group to a mystery investor, believed to be *from Arizona, without informing his* company secretary of the new shareholder's identity.

Havering, a company controlled by a Channel Island trust, acquired an option to subscribe for a 5.8 per cent stake in the company given to *Mr Bates earlier this* year. Havering immediately exercised the option, paying £4.5 million for the shares which last night were valued at £8.5 million. When asked who Havering was, Alan Shaw, Chelsea's company secretary said: "I don't know. We have not served a 212 notice." This is a requirement for an investor to disclose the beneficial owners of its shares under Section 212 of the Companies Act. Mr Shaw added that he could not ask Mr Bates who the new shareholder was, saying, "The chair*man's gone away and is uncontactable.*"

Inquiries revealed the investor is a private individual, living in Arizona, who is a keen fan of English football. No-one close to the club said they know this person's name.

The estate of *Matthew Harding*, the Chelsea deputy chairman who died in the autumn, holds an identical option and it is expected that, after the publication of his will this week, this option will be excercised in the next few days. These moves will bring in £9 million of finance, allowing the club to complete the current stage of its development programme involving flats and a hotel behind the south stand.

Chelsea also moved to deal with the identity of Rysaffe, a Hong Kong com*pany that is its 36.3 per* cent shareholder. It said it was a blind trust in which Mr Bates had no interest and the shares are now to be administered by a management company run by Patrick Murrin, an accountant from Guernsey who is a non-*executive director* of Chelsea.

☐ Newcastle United confirmed its intention to float on the stock market. Full details will be published in January, with United expected to be valued at over £150 million.

TOURIST RATES

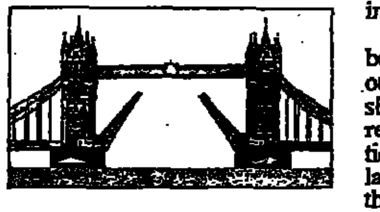
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.21	2.05
Austria Sch	19.25	17.75
Belgium Fr	56.44	52.14
Canada $	2.392	2.232
Cyprus Cyp£	0.819	0.784
Denmark Kr	10.50	9.70
Finland Mkk	8.32	7.87
France Fr	9.18	8.53
Germany Dm	2.75	2.54
Greece Dr	428	403
Hong Kong $	13.57	12.57
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	0.98
Israel Shk	5.78	5.11
Italy Lira	2667	2512
Japan Yen	204.50	188.50
Malta	0.643	0.588
Netherlds Gld	3.063	2.833
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	11.35	10.55
Portugal Esc	273.00	254.50
S Africa Rd	8.41	7.61
Spain Pta	228.00	213.00
Sweden Kr	12.08	11.28
Switzerland Fr	2.35	2.17
Turkey Lira	183550	171650
USA$	1.770	1.640

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Doubts over copper debacle ☐ Winners and losers in supermarket wars ☐ Two questions for Berisford shareholders

Sorting through the scrap metal

PENNINGTON



☐ HOW could a company lose nearly $3 billion through the activities of just *one* employee? Even Nick Leeson needed a bit of help. Easy; just ask Sumitomo Corporation. The Japanese trading conglomerate has steadfastly insisted that solo fraudulent trading activities of Yasuo Hamanaka, its former star copper trader, were responsible for the corporation's losses.

That explanation is hardly credible when you consider the facts as we now know them and as outlined again by the Securities and Investments Board.

In 1991 senior officials from the London Metal Exchange (LME) and the SIB interviewed Mr Hamanaka in the UK, together with a senior Sumitomo executive, after they learnt that the Japanese copper dealer had asked another London trader for a backdated invoice of a fictitious trade worth $250 million.

David King, chief executive of the LME, registered clear concern about the dummy trade and the large positions taken by the Japanese in the copper market. The SIB likewise. Yet Sumitomo said that false document was required for *legitimate* (!) Japanese tax purposes, and Mr Hamanaka, who has indicated that he will plead guilty to certain fraud charges, went on to account for about 5 per cent of the global copper market.

There were further warnings to Sumitomo that also seem to have been ignored. Although this column has had good reason in the past to take City watchdogs to task, it appears that everything that could and should have been done, was. The trouble is that the metals market is dominated by a few very large professional players who know the rules — there are no widows and orphans being gypped, and they should perhaps be left to look after their own affairs. The sort of regulation available to less specialised authorities can only be minimal and tangential.

As to how such investigations should be handled after the fact, the Sumitomo affair is being examined by civil and criminal authorities in Britain, the US and Japan. In many ways it provides a template for the future, showing how all the different bodies should co-operate. Whether any charges, other than those against Mr Hamanaka, are pressed remains to be seen: piecing together the huge copper trades done on behalf of Sumitomo will take many more months.

But there is a growing feeling in the City that the UK authorities are being too tactful and circumspect with their Japanese counterparts. It is whispered that if anyone were to be so impolite as to raise criticisms, or even be suspected of doing so, Japan would withdraw its co-operation.

This is arrant nonsense. As one of the biggest and most respected traders in the world the Japanese must learn to be more open with their international partners. Perhaps if they had listened to those warnings back in 1991 they would not be in such a sensitive position now.

Ringing change at the cash tills

☐ THE rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and God is indeed on the side of the big battalions — at least in the supermarket wars. The sector's interim reporting season ended with a bang, as Asda stormed in with outstanding profit and sales growth.

The chain's gross margins, the all-important measure for the grocers, may have fallen by half a percentage point, but the company's extraordinary renaissance over the past half-decade has been more about volume growth, and this trend continued. Like-for-like sales were 10 per cent ahead, and customer numbers 7 per cent higher. And all this without a loyalty card. Archie Norman, now chairman, can contemplate a less taxing role and a political career with some confidence.

How different it was for Iceland back in September, at the beginning of the results season, reporting the first profits setback in the company's 26-year history. Since then we have had Tesco confirming its position as number one in the sector, J Sainsbury struggling, with little success so far, to find a way to get back on top, and Safeway coming in as a solid runner-up.

The sector has, even more than before, split into two packs. Way out ahead are Tesco, J Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway. The rest are also-rans, and the tiddlers in the sector, particularly Kwik Save, look weaker than ever. The big four have been using their buying power and sophisticated marketing techniques to steal market share. The end result must be consolidation among those also-rans, and the exit of one or more of the foreign discounters who have set up shop over here.

It will be difficult for any of the big four to snap up the smaller chains without running into competition problems, particularly if Labour is in power, so deals may have to be struck. It will be amusing to watch Asda and Tesco, for example, squabbling over how to carve up, say, Wm Morrisons to their own mutual advantage, but the spectacle is likely to begin before too long. The existence of proper competition in such a market is a worry. But there is little to suggest that the tiddlers ever exerted much pressure on their more successful rivals.

Welbilt gives no satisfaction

☐ WHEN Jim Fifield at Thorn EMI, as it then was, was "outed" a few years ago as earning as much as the average music industry mogul in the US and rather more than any of his British colleagues, the howls of outrage were tempered by an acceptance that EMI was doing rather well. Extraordinary rewards in the boardroom went in tandem with shareholder value.

Not so at Berisford, one of this year's crop of stock market pratfalls, where over the past five years shareholders have exchanged bundles of cash for rivers of tears. A profit warning in September sent the shares tumbling, featuring a curious and not entirely explained slowdown at its American Welbilt subsidiary. Welbilt was bought for £198 million in early 1995, and along with it came Marion Antonini as chief executive and a remuneration package of truly transatlantic proportions.

Mr Antonini remains as chief executive. His contract runs for another year and a bit, and he must be still paid a "guaranteed bonus" equal to at least half his earnings. Fine minds might muse the difference between a guaranteed bonus and a straight salary — might it have something to do with disguising the size of the latter?

Simple shareholders should consider two questions ahead of Berisford's annual meeting on January 28. Just what is Mr Antonini doing to justify that package? And why is the company refusing to promise now that his contract, once it expires, will not be renewed?

Shut up and pay up

☐ MORGAN GRENFELL has developed another unpleasant trait besides losing investors' money: whingeing about it. MG claims to have been unfairly treated by watchdog Imro over the mismanagement of its European funds. But no such complaint could arise if investors had not suffered first. Now is the time for Morgan Grenfell to shut up, stop bringing the unit trust industry into disrepute and pay up to 90,000-plus investors. And no later than today, please.

Rank says £185m charges will hit full-year figures

By Alasdair Murray

RANK GROUP, the leisure company, yesterday disappointed the City with a worse than expected trading statement and the suggestion that the sale of its £1 billion stake in Rank Xerox might be delayed until early 1998.

Rank shares fell 24½p to 417½p after analysts downgraded full-year figures from about £330 million to £300 million. Rank shares have now fallen more than 20 per cent since April with the City concerned about the company's strategy.

Rank also said that full-year profits would be hit by about £185 million in exceptional charges, including £35 million costs for restructuring and a £150 million writedown after a property review. However, the company created some cheer by confirming that it had sold Shearings, the coach operator, to a management team for £83 million.

NatWest Ventures is investing £30 million for a majority stake, with the remainder being taken by management and employees. Shearings sells more than 500,000 holidays a year targeted largely at an older age group.

Rank is expected to complete a £300 million disposal plan with the sale of Kingston Plantation, its US property subsidiary, early next year for about £60 million.

The company said in its 11-month trading statement that all the businesses had moved ahead in 1996, with film and entertainment services performing especially strongly. Video duplication volumes increased 16 per cent, boosted by major releases in the US such as *Independence Day*, *Mission Impossible* and *The Nutty Professor*.

Rank added that the integration of the remainder of the Hard Rock Café chain, which was acquired for £270 million in June, was proceeding well. But profits from the chain have fallen because of a 4 per cent decline in like-for-like sales and the temporary closure of the Paris outlet. Rank said that it had plans to accelerate openings.

Bingo admissions rose slightly on a like-for-like basis, bucking the market trend. Spending per head also rose 6 per cent, helping Rank to increase gaming profit. The company added that its cinemas had also been performing strongly.

Tom Cobleigh, the pub chain acquired for £120 million, is performing up to expectations and new sites have beeen identified. Rank said it was aiming to add 20 new pubs in 1997 to the existing 52 sites.

The volumes of UK holidays increased 3 per cent with a 5 per cent boost in retail spending at the sites, which include Oasis and Warner. Paid admissions to Universal City, Florida, also rose 6 per cent.

The company added that it expected to receive £40 million in profits from its stake in Rank Xerox.

Tempus, page 24

Berisford reveals £270,000 bonus

By Jason Nissé

BERISFORD, the troubled conglomerate that recently suffered a profits warning and the disappearance of a bid approach, paid the head of its US business a £270,000 bonus last year, taking his total package to £771,000.

Marion Antonini, who joined the group when it bought Welbilt for £200 million two years ago, received the bonus despite disappointing figures from the US side.

A spokesman said that Mr Antonini's contract guaranteed a bonus of at least 50 per cent of his basic salary. The bonus paid equalled 62 per cent. The contact runs until January 1998 when it can be renegotiated. Institutional investors are opposed to both guaranteed bonus payments and contracts lasting for more than a year. One said yesterday that he would be taking up the matter with the company.

Berisford shares have nearly halved in value over the past year thanks to problems at Welbilt and Magnet, the Yorkshire joinery company it bought for £80 million.

Alan Bowkett, Berisford's chief executive, was given massive share options when he joined the company. They are now valued at £1.3 million.

Pennington, page 23

Citizens raises $89m from mortgage rights

By Martin Barrow

CITIZENS Financial Group, the Royal Bank of Scotland subsidiary in America, has raised $89 million through the sale of $5 billion of third party mortgage servicing rights to Dovenmuehle Mortgage.

Dovenmuehle will also subservice the entire portfolio of mortgage loans owned by Citizens, currently $3.2 billion.

In September Citizens said that it planned to sell its entire $8.8 billion mortgage servicing portfolio and withdraw from the wholesale mortgage business.

The decision was taken as part of a strategic repositioning to focus on retail mortgage business through its banking franchise in New England.

Yesterday's deal was approved by the Federal Trade Commission to be completed in the first quarter of 1997.

Citizens said that it would continue to explore strategic options for the remaining $3.8 billion of third party mortgage servicing rights.

Royal Bank of Scotland owns 76.5 per cent of Citizens. The balance is owned by Bank of Ireland.

TONY WHITE

David Thomas, left, yesterday with Peter Jarvis, whom he is to succeed as Whitbread chief

New chief reflects new Whitbread

By Alasdair Murray

DAVID THOMAS is to take over as chief executive of Whitbread, the leisure and brewing company, when Peter Jarvis steps down next summer, the company announced yesterday.

Mr Thomas is currently managing director of the restaurants and leisure division. Mr Jarvis has served as chief executive since 1985.

Whitbread's choice of Mr Thomas reflects its continuing move away from its brewing roots towards hotel and retail activities. The company is the third-largest hotel group in the UK after its acquisition of the Marriott hotel franchise, and the second-largest restaurants group.

Retail elements contribute 68 per cent of profits, up from 37 per cent ten years ago. The company predicts that the retail side will produce 75 per cent of profits within the next few years, with brewing providing just 10 per cent.

Airtours cruise plan propels shares to record

By Marianne Curphey

SHARES in Airtours jumped 39½p to a record high of 786½p yesterday after the tour operator announced plans with Carnival Corporation, its US partner, to buy the biggest cruise line in Europe.

Airtours, the UK's second-largest tour operator, already runs a highly successful cruise operation in the Mediterranean. Airtours and Carnival expect to launch a joint tender offer, which would give them 50-50 ownership of Costa. They expect to pay £181 million for Costa, which is quoted on the Milan stock exchange and has ten ships.

Carnival and Airtours formed a strategic alliance in March when Carnival took a 29.6 per cent stake in Airtours. Analysts expect Carnival to launch a full bid for Airtours in the long-term.

The acquisition is seen as a good deal since 900,000 people take a cruise each year, and another 300,000 are expected to do so in the next four years. Airtours shares, which have almost doubled in the past five months, have been squeezed high amid a shortage of stock in the market.

The surge in Airtours shares last week was sparked by record profits that outstripped analysts' forecasts. The company said then that it was in a position to spend between £200 million and £250 million on acquisitions.

The owners of Costa, who have 56.9 per cent of voting shares, are reported to have already agreed to the deal, which is expected to be completed by March.

Airtours also plans to sell cruise holidays to Scandinavians, via its tour operating subsidiary. David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, said: "The European cruise market is forecast to grow significantly and Airtours believes that the option of cruising will become increasingly popular in the UK and Scandinavian markets, where Airtours is uniquely placed to capitalise on such growth."

Going Places, the high street travel agency owned by Airtours, announced yesterday that it was offering discounts of between 10 per cent and 25 per cent for summer 1997 holidays booked immediately after Christmas.

Digital TV guidelines set out

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE regulatory framework for digital television, the broadcasting revolution that will bring a huge increase in channels, was outlined yesterday by the industry regulator.

Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Oftel, drafted a series of guidelines to ensure that the market cannot be influenced by companies controlling the all-important decoders. He is attempting to ensure competitive access to digital television by a range of broadcasters and to enable customers to choose services without system complications.

Digital television is expected to start late next year when BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, launches a 200-channel service. A terrestrial version is expected to begin in 1998. Mr Cruickshank said the guidelines, which are still at the consultative stage, would not delay the start.

He also sought to dispel fears over the potential domination of the market by BSkyB, which has aroused concern because it will be the first player in the area and will have a head start on the decoding hardware.

Regulation of digital television will centre on the the decoding mechanism. The guidelines are designed so that technology is not used to "distort, restrict or prevent competition in television".

Oftel will watch over the electronic programme guides with which viewers will move around the system to find channels. There has been concern from some broadcasters that they will get unpopular programme numbers while the company operating the control access technology secures prime numbers.

It will also look at the operation of any subsidy for decoders and how that subsidy can be recovered through charges to broadcasters. Oftel intends to review its plans after comments from the industry.

The Department of Trade and Industry earlier this week set out its own guidelines to deliver fair competition in digital television. But they were regarded by a number of broadcasters as insufficient to address fears in the industry.

The digital revolution will also improve the quality of pictures and sound and will enable a variety of additional functions such as interactive television.

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£10,000+	4.45	4.5

INTEREST PAID NET OF TAX

£ From	% Net	% Net CAR
<£5-£999	0.4	0.4
£1,000-£4,999	2.78	2.8
£5,000-£9,999	2.97	2.99
£10,000+	3.56	3.59

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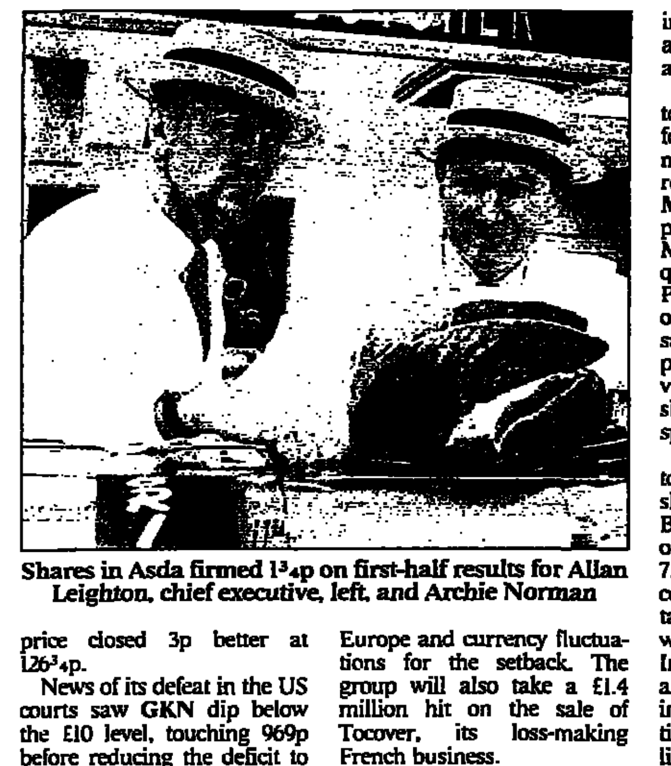
STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Billion-share turnover extends the festive rally



Shares in Asda firmed 1¾p on first-half results for Allan Leighton, chief executive, left, and Archie Norman

DEALERS had to contend with another day of frenetic trading, with a staggering 1.1 billion shares changing hands, as the London stock market extended its pre-Christmas rally.

Share prices closed at their best of the day, underpinned by another positive start to trading on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average was sporting a near 60-point rise in early trading.

Investors were heartened enough to shrug off the stronger than expected surge in the November money supply that could add pressure for a further rise in interest rates.

Instead, the FT-SE 100 index put on a further 33.1 points to close at 4,051.3, extending its lead during the past two days to 77.1. Year-end window dressing by the institutions and book squaring ahead of today's expiry of the December options were given as reasons for the high turnover and sharp price movements among leading shares.

Stock shortages drove **Railtrack** 27½p higher at 398p ahead of the stock going ex-dividend in the new year. **United Biscuits**, that old takeover favourite, also put on 5p at 210p as a few speculative buyers again dreamt of a break-up bid. **Dalgety** extended this week's lead with a rise of 4p at 354p as it continued to talk to brokers.

But brokers were unimpressed with the trading update from **Rank Organisation**, the price dropping 25½p to 416½p. BZW has cut its profit forecast for the current year from £332 million to £324 million after the group warned of write-offs of £235 million. The sale of Rank's £1 billion stake in Rank Xerox has been put back to 1998.

Takeover speculation continued to drive **General Accident** higher. The price jumped 14½p to 750p. Speculators are still talking about a possible bid from **BAT Industries**, up 17½p at 484p, after talks with **Commercial Union** were reckoned to have been aborted. CU rose 1½p to 688p.

The City gave a cautious welcome to half-year figures from **Asda** showing pre-tax profits 16 per cent higher at £160.1 million. The shares firmed 1¾p to 125½p. Archie Norman, chairman, said he was reluctant to take on the market leaders by expanding its loyalty card scheme to cover all Asda stores. The price closed 3p better at 126¾p.

News of its defeat in the US courts saw **GKN** dip below the £10 level, touching 969p before reducing the deficit to 35½p at £10.09½. The group now plans to make provisions to take account of an award made against its Meineke subsidiary totalling $398 million. The group emphasised that the provisions would not affect the current year.

A profits warning left **Ruberoid** 10½p lower at 100½p. The fall might have been greater but the group has pegged its total dividend at 6.1p despite a disappointing second-half performance that will leave profits for the full year below expectations. The group blamed poor weather in Europe and currency fluctuations for the setback. The group will also take a £1.4 million hit on the sale of Tocover, its loss-making French business.

Fountain Forestry established a useful premium in first time trading on the Alternative Investment Market after a placing by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 75p. The group, which provides forest management and tree related services for private and corporate landowners, utilities and local authorities, saw its price start life at 79½p before closing at 84½p, a premium of 9½p.

First-time dealings in **Crown Leisure**, the fruit machine supplier, made an encouraging start after placing at 77p. The shares touched a high of 81p before finishing at 80½p, a premium of 3½p.

Newcastle United's decision to join the growing number of football clubs seeking a stock market listing has helped to refocus attention back on **Manchester United**, with the price surging 26½p to 641½p. Manchester United is without question the most successful Premiership side both on and off the field. City speculators say the introduction of pay-per-view television could provide a new lease of life for the shares. Next stop, say the City speculators, is £10.

Chelsea Village slipped 1p to 113½p as a major new shareholder emerged. Ken Bates, chairman, has sold options to subscribe for up to 7.5 million shares, or 5.29 per cent of the issued share capital, for £375,000. The buyer was the Havering Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Trust Company, which immediately exercised the options by subscribing £4.5 million. It now owns 5.79 per cent.

The recovery continues apace at **Wace Group**, the printer, where the price climbed a further 8p to 97½p on turnover of almost one million shares.

Filtronic was another high-flyer yesterday climbing 21½p to 330½p, but the shares remain woefully shy of the 470p they hit earlier this year.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The London bond market extended this week's gains supported by positive performances from both German bunds and US Treasury bonds. The bigger than expected surge in the November money supply revived fears that it could lead to a further rise in interest rates.

As a result investors continued switching out of shorter dated issues and into the longer end of the market, producing a further flattening of the yield curve.

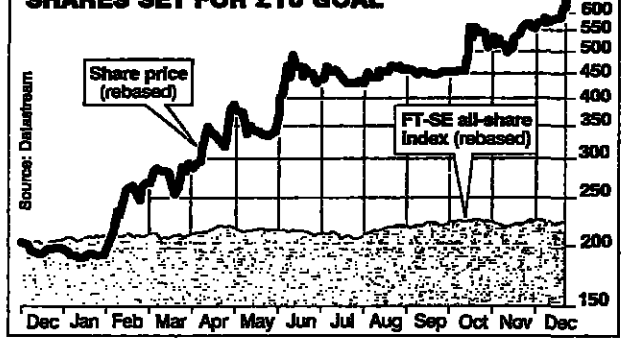
In futures the March series of the long gilt rose £3/8 to £109 1/16 as the number of contracts completed continued to shrink to 31,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £9/16 at £102 15/32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1/8 firmer at £102 9/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street surged in morning trading as high technology stocks and biotechs continued their rally from the previous day. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up 53.06 points at 6,399.83.

Hunters Armley, the commercial printer, stood out with a rise of 12½p at 105p on the back of a "buy" recommendation from Panmure Gordon, the broker. Panmure has increased its pre-tax profit estimate for the current year from £4 million to £4.2 million. That compares with £1.8 million last time.

MANCHESTER UNITED: SHARES SET FOR £10 GOAL



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6399.83 (+53.06)
S&P Composite	737.84 (+6.30)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	19570.67 (-522.36)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	12846.56 (+80.54)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	625.56 (+7.13)

Sydney:

AO	2331.7 (+8.0)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2807.75 (-13.00)

Singapore:

Straits	2199.35 (+3.57)

Brussels:

General	10389.51 (+31.83)

Paris:

CAC-40	2248.70 (+29.81)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	831.00 (-0.10)

London:

FT 30	2780.8 (+18.2)
FT 100	4051.3 (+33.1)
FTSE Mid 250	4406.8 (+26.3)
FTSE 350	2009.4 (+15.4)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1865.10 (+9.27)
FT All-Share	1979.85 (+14.54)
FT Non Financials	2060.65 (+16.31)
FT Fixed Interest	116.17 (+0.07)
FT Govt Secs	94.03 (+0.22)
Bargains	85238
SEAQ Volume	1111.5m
USM (Datastrm)	189.47 (+0.25)
US$	1.6630 (-0.0095)
German Mark	2.5938 (-0.0061)
Exchange Index	94.1 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3352
£:SDR	1.1626
RPI	153.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advanced Power	82½	+ 2
Archer Dedicated	100	...
BZW Endowment Red	53	+ 1
Cadcentre	237½	...
Car Group	190½	− 3
Colt Telecom (275)	281½	+ 1
Crown Leisure	80½	...
Dawn Til Dusk	121½	...
Finsbury Intl Hedge	612½	...
Fountain Forestry	84½	...
Future Int Tele (115)	125	...
Henderson Tech	100	+ 2
Highams Systems	113½	− 5
Kern River	50½	...
Kier Group	185½	+ ½
Linden	164½	...
Netcall	49½	...
Oliver Ashworth	135½	...
On-Line	102½	+ 5
Oxford Biomedica	64½	+ 4
Parkwood Holdings	80	...
Pilat Tech	55½	+ 3
Provend (125)	137½	...
SDX Business Sys	170½	...
Scot Highland Htls	137½	...
Semple Cochrane	232½	+ 1
Xenova	216½	...
Yeoman Group	157½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Colloids n/p	11	+ 3
Aukett n/p (5)	1½	...
Azlan n/p (620)	¼	...
Biocompatibles n/p	240	− 5

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Huntigh Tech	200p (+20½p)
Shield Diag	180½p (+18p)
Limelight	187½p (+12p)
Airtours	797½p (+50p)
Telspec	172½p (+10p)
Guinness	454p (+10½p)
Enterprise	614½p (+19p)
Laporte	661½p (+27p)

FALLS:

Streamline Hldgs	187½p (-11p)
Vanguard	517½p (-20p)
Whitbread	761p (-14½p)

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS

Slipping down the Ranks

RANK GROUP may lay claim to be the country's premier leisure outfit, but the company has hardly been supplying shareholders with fun. The shares have slipped 23 per cent since spring becasue of persistent worries on Rank's structure and strategy.

Andrew Teare, who became chief executive earlier this year, is trying to rebuild the sprawling giant. Gone are Precision Industries and Shearings, the coach business sold yesterday for £83 million. Soon to go are Kingston Plantation, the US property group, and the remaining Rank Xerox stake — worth almost £1 billion.

But for all the non-core disposal plans, there remain large question marks over the company's strategy. The suspicion is that the company overpaid for the Tom Cobleigh pub chain, purchased for £120 million, and apart from vague ideas of adding pubs to future multiplex sites, it is still not clear how it fits with the rest of Rank's business. The video duplication business has recorded a useful increase in sales this year, but the City does not believe that the business has a long-term future with on-line video the way forward. Too much capital remains tied up in Xerox, Universal City and real estate, and the concern is that, even when the company unwinds these stakes over the next couple of years, it has not demonstrated that it will use the proceeds in a coherent fashion.

But the market is in Rank's favour with consumer spending expected to continue to accelerate in the UK and US over the coming year. For this reason alone, the shares, which stand on a forward price earnings ratio of around 16, are still worth clinging on to.

GKN

GKN will be hit by a substantial charge after losing a class action suit in America over discount muffler shops. Lawyers and judges have yet to decide whether the damage will amount to $400 million or to $550 million.

Whatever the outcome, investors will see more of GKN's 1996 share price gains wiped out. But the news from North Carolina is not as grim as it seems.

Investors should ask themselves for how long they are intending to hold the shares. In the short term, GKN is only a risk-takers' buy. While the damages could go up, the group has not given up hope that they may actually go down instead. For some this may be a punt to far.

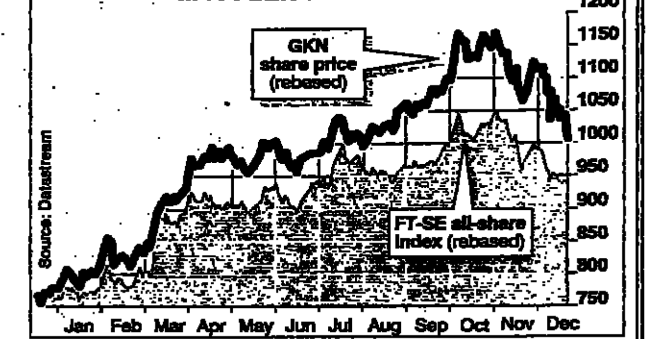
But medium-term investors should be even more worried. The 1996 dividend will be left untouched. But dividends to come look likely to get dragged down.

None of this will concern long-term investers. GKN is a good buy and has far from disappointed the market this year. Its main business markets look set to soar.

Yesterday's blow should be seen as a one-off and not as a significant blow to the long-term prospects of the group. Long-term investors should, however, bear in mind that a drain on cash reserves could scupper acquisition plans that GKN may have had.

Currently GKN has about £250 million in cash. New debt issues or a rights issue may be on the cards.

MUFFLER BACKFIRES



Tring

WHEN Tring warned the market in September that it would only produce a "small" interim profit, what it really meant was a very small interim profit combined with very large exceptional charges.

Yesterday, the music and video distributor reported just £200,000 pre-tax profit for the six months to September 30 before exceptionals, and a £2.4 million loss after. Last year's profit was £1.44 million and a year earlier was £2.56 million.

A big item in the exceptionals is litigation. The company says it has made "considerable progress" in settling its legal actions, brought for alleged copyright violations, and a key dispute with K-Tel has been settled and a new licence agreed. It also says no significant new claims have been received, but this is a long way from everything being settled.

The exceptionals aside, trading was dire in the first half, with turnover down 19 per cent. This is put down to poor August and September sales and the deferral of a large contract, but there is nothing to suggest that things have got better. Indeed, market conditions are described as "difficult".

Lingering worries about legal action, plus the terrible sales figures, are likely to keep Tring's shares down at current levels. And that, as some bitter people will know well, means more than 100p below the 118p flotation price of less than three years ago.

NSM

WITH Coal Investments in receivership and RJB Mining hit by profit downgrades, this is no time for a coal miner to go cap in hand to bankers for more money. But that is the plight of NSM. In fact, it is difficult to remember a time when the company was not stumbling from one crisis to the next, and its record will count against it as banks ponder whether to write another cheque.

The American adventure has been a disaster, culminating in yesterday's £71.4 million charge, against its current market value of just £5 million. What remains is the UK operation, comprising a promising but, as yet, unproven anthracite mine at Pentreclwydau, and an assortment of sites in England and Scotland. But production is in decline as contracts with successor companies to British Coal are completed. Opencast development in Britain continues to meet fierce resistence and it is difficult to envisage significant growth in the short-term.

Perversely, while NSM shares fell 4p to 8p, RJB shares rose 12½p to 440p, showing signs of life after their recent decline. But it is clear the revolution that swept through the industry after the British Coal privatisation has little to offer investors at present.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	865-860	Mar	983 SLR
Mar	906-905	May	993 SLR
May	926-925	Jul	1010-1007
Jul	946-943	Sep	1020-1017
Sep	964-963		
Dec	973-970		Volume: 8014

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1285-1283	Sep	1215-1208
Mar	1234-1233	Nov	1220-1215
May	1196-1195	Jan	1250-1215
Jul	1208-1205		Volume: 7944

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	302.9-00.5
Spot: 312.0		Dec	304.0-00.5
Mar	305.0-04.4	Mar	305.0-01.5
May	304.5-03.9	May	308.0-02.0
Aug	306.5-04.4		Volume: 1077

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	88.97	135.85	105.22
(+/-)	+3.12	+2.94	-3.41
Eng/Wales:	88.97	136.81	104.50
(+/-)	+3.12	+2.47	-1.51
(%)	+12.0	-47.0	-26.0
Scotland:	unq	132.33	107.97
(+/-)	...	+3.69	-12.58
(%)	...	-51.0	-12.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	24.15	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Feb)	23.80	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Mar)	23.20	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	25.20	+0.55
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	*24.55*	*+0.50*

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	216 (-1)	220 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	225 (n/c)	226 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	114 (n/c)	116 (n/c)
Naphtha	217 (-4)	220 (-3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	217.75-18.00	Apr	198.25-98.50
Feb	214.25-14.50	May	192.00-92.50
Mar	207.25-07.50		Vol: 15459

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	23.80-23.85	May	21.86-21.92
Mar	23.15-23.18	Jun	21.29-21.36
Apr	22.51-22.55		Vol: 26017

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	96.50	Jan	94.00
Mar	98.70	Mar	95.75
May	100.60	May	97.00
Jul	102.00	Sep	93.50
Sep	94.15	Nov	95.50
	Volume: 155		Volume: 18

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	51.3
Apr	61.0	61.4
May	unq	63.6
		Volume: 11

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 81.25-81.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 97	1460	1435	1440
Feb 97	1405	1405	1418
Apr 97	1490	1485	1484
Jul 97	1220	1220	1220
Vol: 119 lots			Open interest: 3865

Index 1523 +5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2227.0-2228.0	2132.0-2134.0	1695750
Lead ($/tonne)	698.00-700.00	703.00-704.00	279925
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1033.5-1034.0	1057.0-1057.5	545275
Tin ($/tonne)	5795.0-5799.0	5840.0-5845.0	18940
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1514.0-1514.5	1545.5-1546.0	1258325
Nickel ($/tonne)	6640.0-6650.0	6740.0-6745.0	79404

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom	420	18½	33	37	4½	12	20
(*430½)	460	4½	15	18½	30	34½	43
ASDA	120	8½	11	13½	1	3½	6
(*126½)	130	3	6	8½	5½	8½	11
Boots	600	16	33	43½	8½	17½	27
(*606)	650	1	12	21	44½	48	56½
Br Airways	600	20½	41	51	9½	20½	30½
(*609½)	650	3½	19	28	42	48	59½
BP	650	42	59	66½	3	16½	22
(*683)	700	12½	32	40	22	39	45
Br Steel	160	7	13	16	2	9½	10½
(*164½)	180	0½	4½	7	15½	17½	23
C & W	460	24½	39½	49½	4	12½	21½
(*478½)	500	5½	20	30	24½	32	41½
CU	650	46	61½	70½	5½	28	34
(*688)	700	17½	44½	54½	25	56	60
ICI	750	23½	40½	52	9½	30½	37
(*762½)	800	3½	18	30	40	62	67
Land Sec	700	48	62½	70	0½	5	12½
(*745)	750	11½	28	36½	12½	21	33½
M & S	460	27½	40½	46	1½	7½	12
(*484)	500	5	18	24	18½	25	31
Nat West	650	32½	45½	56½	5½	27½	31½
(*675½)	700	7½	21½	33½	30½	56½	60
Safeway plc	390	17	29½	36	6	13½	22
(*399½)	420	3	15½	21½	23	29½	38½
Sainsbury	360	21½	32½	36½	1½	6	13
(*379)	390	4	15	20½	14	19	28
Shell	950	42	67	71½	5	24½	34
(*984)	1000	12½	37½	44½	25	49	57½
Smkl Bch	800	25½	49½	65½	19	38	47
(*803½)	850	8	28½	43½	50½	66½	75
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	62½	106½	138	23½	61	84
(*1630)	1700	19½	59½	91	81	116	138
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAT Ind	460	30	41½	48½	6	22½	29½
(*482)	500	9½	21	30½	24½	44½	52
Vodafone	240	12½	21½	26½	4½	8½	13½
(*248)	260	3	11½	17	14½	19	23½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	30½	37½	44½	6	12	16½
(*448½)	460	6½	17½	24½	27	32	36½
Ladbroke	220	14	19	22½	4	10	12
(*228)	240	5½	10½	13½	14½	20½	23
Utd Bisc	200	16	20½	23	3	8½	10½
(*210)	220	6	10½	14	13	19½	21½

December 19, 1996 Tot: 51307 Calls: 29713 Puts: 21684 FTSE Calls: 10439 Puts: 5252

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	30½	43	51	1	7½	13½
(*487½)	500	6	19½	27½	16	24	30
Thames W	550	42½	57	66	0½	9	20½
(*589)	600	9	26½	35½	16½	27½	45
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BTR	260	20½	24½	29½	4	10	12½
(*274)	280	9	13½	19½	12½	20	22
Br Aero	1150	65½	85½	107½	18½	34	43
(*1183½)	1200	37½	60	80½	39½	56½	66
Br Telcm	390	15½	24	30½	12	17½	30½
(*398½)	420	5	11	17½	32½	35½	50
Cadbury	480	30	36½	42½	3½	13	17½
(*481½)	500	9	15	22½	22	34½	39
Guinness	420	40½	46	50	2	8½	12
(*454)	460	13½	21	27	15	26	30
GEC	360	27½	37	41	4	7½	14½
(*380½)	390	10	19	24½	16½	20	29
Hanson	119	6½	—	—	4½	—	—
(*121)	136	1	—	—	16	—	—
LASMO	220	19½	25	32	5½	7½	9½
(*232)	240	9½	15½	22	15	17	19
LucasVarity	220	14	30	24½	6½	11	15
(*225½)	240	5½	11	19½	17½	22	26
Pilkingtn	140	13½	18½	21½	1½	4	6
(*150½)	160	4	8½	12	11	13½	16
Prudential	460	34	41½	48	6	16	20½
(*484)	500	13	21	28	24½	37	41
Redland	360	19	27	28½	9½	18½	22
(*365½)	390	6½	13	15	27	37½	40½
R-Royce	240	14½	20	24½	8	13	16
(*244)	260	6	11	16	19½	24	27
Tesco	330	30	37½	42	4	9½	13
(*354)	360	11½	19½	25	15½	23	26½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4049)

	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150
Calls						
Dec	150	100	51	10½	0½	0½
Jan	175	132½	93	59	33	15
Feb	207½	164½	128½	96	69	45½
Mar	218	181	142½	113½	86	64½
Jun	268	—	205	—	149½	—
Puts						
Dec	0½	0½	1	10½	51	101
Jan	14½	22½	35	53½	78	113
Feb	33	44	58	77	101	130
Mar	55½	68	81	101½	125	154½
Jun	92	—	127	—	170½	—

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	700	61½	71½	78½	21½	28½	38½
(*741½)	750	33½	45½	53½	46½	53½	63
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	47	63	73	41½	50	58½
(*1006½)	1050	25	41½	52	72½	79½	87½
Natl Pwr	450	39	—	—	12	—	—
(*471)	500	15½	23½	26½	37½	51	55½
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo W	900	44½	67½	82	7½	31	40½
(*932½)	950	16½	40½	56	29	55½	65
HSBC	1250	38½	73	97	22	61½	79
(*1261½)	1300	16½	49½	74½	51	90½	107½
Reuter	700	27½	47½	62	8½	26	33½
(*716)	750	7½	34	38½	36½	53	60
Royal & Sun	431	22	36½	—	4½	20	—
(*446½)	469	4½	—	—	25½	—	—
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Blue Circ	330	35	40½	44	2	6	11
(*359½)	360	14½	21½	26	11	20½	24
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Kingfshr	600	33	43½	52	13	27	33
(*613½)	650	10½	20	29	41½	56	61
	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Unilever	1350	99	74½	—	22	44	—
(*1369)	1400	33	49	—	47	70½	—
Br Gas	220	13½	18	—	10½	16	—
(*220½)	240	5½	10	—	23	28	—
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	500	48	62	68	12	17½	23½
(*533½)	550	20½	34	42	33	40	47½
EMI Group	1300	64½	97	115½	39	52½	68
(*1317½)	1350	41½	72½	89½	66	78	97½
Tarmac	90	8½	11	12½	3	4	5½
(*94)	100	4½	6	8	8½	9½	11
Hillsdwn	180	18	20	21½	2½	7	8½
(*193)	200	6½	8½	11	11	17½	19½
Lonrho	120	7½	10½	12	7	9	11
(*120½)	130	3½	6½	8½	14	15	17
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	240	19½	25	29	7	9	14
(*252)	260	9½	15	19	16½	19	24½
Lloyds TSB	420	22½	31	37	18½	24½	29
(*426½)	460	7	15	20½	45½	49½	53
Scot Pwr	323	25½	—	—	7½	—	—
(*343)	353	10	—	—	22½	—	—

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 69812	Dec 96	4023.0	4056.0	4015.0	4050.0	18906
	Mar 97	4034.0	4073.0	4027.0	4063.5	16003
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 5781	Dec 96	4391.0	4391.0	4391.0	4391.0	44
	Mar 97	4426.0	4445.0	4426.0	4445.0	28
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 381037	Mar 97	93.27	93.31	93.25	93.26	21269
	Jun 97	93.01	93.04	92.99	93.01	12182
	Sep 97	92.82	92.84	92.79	92.82	5605
Three Mth Euro Yen	Jun 97	99.41	99.41	99.41	99.40	644
	Sep 97	99.31	99.31	99.31	99.31	300
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 963692	Mar 97	96.88	96.89	96.85	96.86	37808
	Jun 97	96.82	96.83	96.76	96.80	26199
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 135767	Dec 96	109-14	109-28	109-13	109-27	350
	Mar 97	108-20	109-08	108-17	109-02	31357
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 97	125.97	126.17	125.97	126.17	981
	Jun 97	124.71	124.71	124.71	124.74	25
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 221286	Mar 97	99.88	100.38	99.84	100.32	89795
	Jun 97	99.22	99.22	99.22	99.43	20
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 26811	Mar 97	95.94	95.96	95.93	95.95	1249
	Jun 97	95.96	95.97	95.95	95.96	221
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 75793	Mar 97	98.14	98.14	98.09	98.09	4535
	Jun 97	98.05	98.07	98.02	98.03	2101
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 91579	Mar 97	128.40	128.80	128.24	128.72	22242
	Jun 97				128.25	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 5[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 ; 3 mth 6[illegible] . Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible] ; 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5[illegible], close 5[illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.59	n/a	5.50	5.52	5.78
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $369.20-369.50 Close: $368.80-369.30 High: $369.10-369.60

Low: $368.05-368.55 AM: $369.60 PM: $369.00

Krugerrand: $368.00-371.00 (£221.25-223.25)

Platinum: $371.75 (£223.15) Silver: $4.86 (£2.925) Palladium: $118.00 (£70.85)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.9097-2.9252	2.9097-2.9136	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	53.416-53.750	53.416-53.515	16-11pr	48-41pr
Copenhagen	9.9180-9.9710	9.9180-9.9273	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0037-1.0081	1.0048-1.0064	5-1pr	15-9pr
Frankfurt	2.5922-2.6064	2.5922-2.5949	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	261.66-263.21	261.69-261.93	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Madrid	218.40-219.63	218.40-218.61	11-1pr	11-7pr
Milan	2548.6-2566.4	2548.6-2551.3	21-37ds	30-52ds
Montreal	2.2711-2.2924	2.2711-2.2733	0.63-0.58pr	1.28-1.20pr
New York	1.6620-1.6742	1.6620-1.6630	0.075-0.055pr	0.36-0.33pr
Oslo	10.778-10.845	10.778-10.787	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.7591-8.8080	8.7591-8.7660	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	11.392-11.491	11.392-11.412	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	189.46-190.83	189.46-189.71	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	18.241-18.346	18.241-18.262	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Zurich	2.2249-2.2364	2.2249-2.2279	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2586-1.2594
Austria	10.97-10.98
Belgium (Com)	32.14-32.18
Canada	1.3659-1.3664
Denmark	5.9695-5.9715
France	5.2700-5.2705
Germany	1.5596-1.5606
Hong Kong	7.7380-7.7390
Ireland	1.6520-1.6530
Italy	1532.60-1534.10
Japan	114.14-114.19
Malaysia	2.5244-2.5251
Netherlands	1.7507-1.7512
Norway	6.4890-6.4910
Portugal	157.50-157.55
Singapore	1.3987-1.3997
Spain	131.33-131.42
Sweden	6.8546-6.8621
Switzerland	1.3381-1.3391

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6597-1.6624
Australia dollar	2.0903-2.0928
Bahrain dinar	0.6245-0.6365
Brazil real*	1.7287-1.7332
China yuan	13.718-14.018
Cyprus pound	0.7915-0.7915
Finland markka	7.7075-7.8235
Greece drachma	409.25-416.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.8489-12.8583
India rupee	59.53-60.49
Indonesia rupiah	3909.0-3977.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4965-0.5065
Malaysia ringgit	4.1918-4.1955
New Zealand dollar	2.3483-2.3504
Pakistan rupee	66.55 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0300-6.1540
Singapore dollar	2.3209-2.3239
S Africa rand (com)	7.7930-7.8950
U A E dirham	6.0825-6.2065

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,300	Lloyds TSB	12,600
ASDA Gp	24,600	LucasVarity	2,500
Abbey Ntl	7,600	Marks Spr	5,100
Allied Dom	7,600	NatWst Bk	3,000
Argos	449	Nat Grid	8,400
AB Foods	4,200	Nat Power	1,900
BAA	2,200	Next	822
BAT Inds	7,100	Orange	6,900
BOC	1,300	P & O	1,800
BP	7,800	Pearson	2,300
BSkyB	4,600	Pilkington	2,100
BTR	25,300	PowerGen	2,300
BT	12,100	Prudential	6,100
Bk of Scot	6,300	RMC	5,000
Barclays	7,100	RTZ	2,800
Bass	3,900	Railtrack	5,900
Blue Circle	4,300	Rank Group	7,500
Boots	2,700	Reckitt Col	3,300
BAe	3,100	Redland	4,300
BA	4,400	Reed Intl	2,100
Brit Gas	8,400	Rentokil Inl	5,300
Brit Steel	15,500	Reuters	4,900
Burmah Cstl	534	Rolls Royce	3,800
Burton	3,400	Royal & Sun	4,700
Cable Wire	4,700	Royal Bk Sct	3,800
Cadbury	1,200	Safeway	5,300
Carlton Cms	1,300	Sainsbury	3,100
Cm Union	1,700	Schroders	397
Courtaulds	5,900	Scot & New	1,500
Dixons	3,600	Scot Power	3,400
EMI	2,000	Svrn Trent	1,100
Enterpr Oil	3,000	Shell Trans	5,200
GKN	5,600	Siebe	2,100
GRE	3,800	SmKl Bch	6,700
GUS	3,700	Smith Nph	1,900
Gen Acc	893	Smiths Inds	4,600
Gen Elec	6,600	Std Chartd	2,900
Glaxo Well	7,000	TI Gp	337
Granada	5,100	Tate & Lyle	1,400
Grand Met	5,600	Tesco	7,000
Guinness	3,000	Thames W	1,900
HSBC	1,400	Tomkins	5,500
Hanson	22,500	Unilever	915
ICI	6,500	Utd Utilities	2,200
Imp Tob	5,800	Utd News	3,100
Kingfisher	3,200	Vodafone	6,600
LASMO	5,300	Whitbread	4,300
Ladbroke	14,000	Wlms Hld	1,000
Land Secs	391	Wolseley	2,600
Legal & Gn	4,600	Zeneca	4,500

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
AMP Inc	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
AMR Corp	86	86[illegible]
ASA	34[illegible]	35[illegible]
AT & T	39[illegible]	38[illegible]
Abbott Labs	52[illegible]	50[illegible]
Advanced Micro	26[illegible]	27
Aetna Life	75[illegible]	75[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	32[illegible]	31[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	67[illegible]	66[illegible]
AirTouch Comm	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Alberto-Culver B	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Albertson's	34[illegible]	35
Alcan Alumnm	33[illegible]	33
Alco Standard	49[illegible]	49
Allied Signal	67[illegible]	68[illegible]
Alum Co of Am	62[illegible]	60[illegible]
Amax Gold Inc	6[illegible]	6[illegible]
Amerada Hess	58	57
Amer Brands	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Amer El Power	40	39[illegible]
Amer Express	54[illegible]	53[illegible]
Amer Genl Corp	39[illegible]	38[illegible]
Amer Home Pr	59[illegible]	59
Amer Intl	107[illegible]	106[illegible]
Amer Stores	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
Amer Standard	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Ameritech	58[illegible]	55[illegible]
Amoco	78[illegible]	79
Anheuser-Busch	41[illegible]	40[illegible]
Apple Computer	23	23[illegible]
Archer Daniels	22[illegible]	22
Armco	4[illegible]	4[illegible]
Armstrng Wrld	68[illegible]	68[illegible]
Asarco	25[illegible]	24[illegible]
Atl Richfield	133[illegible]	133
Auto Data Pro	42[illegible]	42[illegible]
Avery Dennison	69[illegible]	68[illegible]
Avon Products	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
Baker Hughes	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	43[illegible]	42[illegible]
BankAmerica	99[illegible]	98[illegible]
Bank of NY	34	33[illegible]
Bankers Tr NY	88[illegible]	85[illegible]
Barnett Banks	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
Bausch & Lomb	35[illegible]	36
Baxter Intl	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Becton Dicknsn	43[illegible]	42[illegible]
Bell Atlantic	66[illegible]	66[illegible]
Bell Industries	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
BellSouth	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Black & Decker	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Block (H&R)	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Boeing	101[illegible]	101[illegible]
Boise Cascade	32[illegible]	33[illegible]
Bristol Myrs Sq	109	108[illegible]
Browning Ferris	25[illegible]	25
Brunswick	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	84[illegible]	84[illegible]
CMS Energy Corp	32[illegible]	32
CNA Financial	107[illegible]	105[illegible]
CPC Intl	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
CSX	44	45[illegible]
Campbell Soup	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Can Pacific	26	25[illegible]
Carolina Pwr	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Caterpillar	75	74[illegible]
Central & SW	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Champion Intl	42[illegible]	43
Chase Manhat	89[illegible]	87[illegible]
Chevron Corp	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Chrysler	33[illegible]	32[illegible]
Chubb Corp	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Cigna Corp	134[illegible]	139[illegible]
Citicorp	102[illegible]	101
Clorox	97[illegible]	97[illegible]
Coastal Corp	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Coca Cola	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Coca Cola Ent	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Colgate-Palmolive	90[illegible]	91
Columbia Gas	62	62
ColumbiaHCA	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Compaq Comp	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
Comp Ass Intl	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Conagra	50	49
Conrail	100[illegible]	99
Cons Edison	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Cons Nat Gas	54[illegible]	53[illegible]
Cooper Inds	38[illegible]	39[illegible]
Corestates	51[illegible]	50[illegible]
Corning Inc	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Crown Cork	51	51[illegible]
Dana Corp	31	31[illegible]
Dayton Hudson	39	38[illegible]
Deere	42[illegible]	41[illegible]
Delta Air Lines	72[illegible]	73[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Digital Equip	39[illegible]	38[illegible]
Dillard Dept St	30	30
Disney (Walt)	71[illegible]	71[illegible]
Dominion Res	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Donnelley (RR)	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Dover Corp	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
Dow Chemical	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
Dow Jones	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Dresser	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
Duke Power	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Dun & Brdstreet	23[illegible]	23
Du Pont	94[illegible]	93
Eastman Chem	54[illegible]	54[illegible]

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
Eastman Kodak	80[illegible]	79[illegible]
Eaton Corp	66[illegible]	67[illegible]
Edison Intl	19[illegible]	19[illegible]
Elect Data Sys	44[illegible]	45[illegible]
Emerson Elec	97[illegible]	96[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	19	18[illegible]
Enron Corp	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Entergy	27[illegible]	28
Ethyl Corp	9	8[illegible]
Exxon	98[illegible]	97[illegible]
FMC Corp	71[illegible]	71[illegible]
FPL Group	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
Federal Express	41[illegible]	41
Fed Nat Mtge	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
First Bk Sys	69[illegible]	68[illegible]
First Union Rlty	11	11
Fleet Fnl Grp	51[illegible]	50[illegible]
Fluor Corp	62	62[illegible]
Ford Motor	31[illegible]	32
GTE Corp	42[illegible]	42
Gannett	72[illegible]	71[illegible]
Gap Inc Del	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
[illegible]	17[illegible]	17[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	70[illegible]	69[illegible]
Gen Electric	100[illegible]	99
Gen Mills	65[illegible]	63[illegible]
Gen Motors	53[illegible]	54[illegible]
Gen Reinsurance	156[illegible]	155[illegible]
Gen Signal	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Genuine Parts	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Georgia Pac	71[illegible]	71[illegible]
Gillette	69	69[illegible]
Glaxo Wellc ADR	30[illegible]	31[illegible]
Goodrich (BF)	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Goodyear Tire	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
Grt Atl Pac Tea	32	31[illegible]
Great Wstn Fin	29[illegible]	29
Halliburton	59[illegible]	59
Harcourt General	48[illegible]	47[illegible]
Heinz (HJ)	35[illegible]	36
Hercules	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Hershey Foods	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
Hewlett Packard	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Hilton Hotels	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Home Depot	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Homestake Mng	14[illegible]	14
Honeywell	66[illegible]	66[illegible]
Household Intl	90[illegible]	90[illegible]
Houston Inds	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Humana	19[illegible]	19[illegible]
ITT Corp	42	42[illegible]
Illinois Tool	78[illegible]	77[illegible]
Illinova	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
INCO	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
Ingersoll Rand	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
Inland Steel	19[illegible]	19[illegible]
Intel Corp	136[illegible]	135[illegible]
IBM	158[illegible]	158[illegible]
Intl Flav & Fr	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Intl Paper	38[illegible]	39[illegible]
James River Va	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	50	49[illegible]
Kellogg	66	65[illegible]
Kerr-McGee	70[illegible]	69[illegible]
Kimberly-Clark	96[illegible]	96[illegible]
Kmart	10[illegible]	10[illegible]
Knight-Ridder	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Lilly (Eli)	76[illegible]	75[illegible]
Limited Inc	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
Lincoln Nat	51[illegible]	50[illegible]
Litton	45[illegible]	44[illegible]
Liz Claiborne	40	40[illegible]
Lockheed Martin	87[illegible]	87[illegible]
Louisiana Pac	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
MCI Comm	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Marriott Int	52	51[illegible]
Marsh & McLnn	104[illegible]	103[illegible]
Masco Corp	34[illegible]	35
May Dept St	46[illegible]	45[illegible]
Maytag Corp	20	19[illegible]
McDonalds	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
McDonnell D	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
McGraw Hill	46[illegible]	46
Mead Corp	56[illegible]	56
Medtronic	66[illegible]	65[illegible]
Mellon Bk	71[illegible]	69[illegible]
Merck Inc	79[illegible]	77
Merrill Lynch	[illegible]	80
Microsoft	[illegible]	82[illegible]
Minnesota Mine	[illegible]	81[illegible]
Mobil Corp	122[illegible]	121[illegible]
Monsanto	39[illegible]	37[illegible]
Morgan (JP)	97[illegible]	96[illegible]
Motorola Inc	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Natl Semi	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Natl Service Ind	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Navistar Intl	9[illegible]	9[illegible]
NY Times A	38[illegible]	38
Newmont Mng	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Niag Mohawk	9[illegible]	9[illegible]
Nike B	61	55[illegible]
NL Industries	11	11[illegible]
Noram Energy	15[illegible]	15[illegible]
Nordstrom	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Norfolk Sthrn	86[illegible]	86[illegible]
Nthn States Pwr	46	46
Norwest Corp	44	43[illegible]
Nynex Corp	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Occidental Pet	22[illegible]	23[illegible]
Ohio Edison	22[illegible]	22[illegible]

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
Oracle	42[illegible]	42[illegible]
Oryx Energy Co	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Overseas Ship	16[illegible]	16[illegible]
Owens Corning	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
PHH Corp	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
PPG Industries	59[illegible]	55
PNC Bank	38[illegible]	37[illegible]
PP&L Res	23	22[illegible]
Paccar Inc	68[illegible]	68[illegible]
Pacificorp	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
Pac Enterprises	29	28[illegible]
Pac Gas & Elect	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Pac Telesis	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Pall Corp	26	26
Parker Hannifin	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Peco Energy	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Penney (JC)	49	49[illegible]
Pennzoil	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Pepsico	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Pfizer	82[illegible]	81[illegible]
Pharm & Upjhn	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	68[illegible]	67[illegible]
Philip Morris	113	111[illegible]
Phillips Pet	43	42[illegible]
Pitney Bowes	57[illegible]	56[illegible]
Polaroid	41[illegible]	40[illegible]
PriceCostco	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Procter & Gmbl	105[illegible]	104[illegible]
Providian	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Pub Serv E & G	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Quaker Oats	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Ralston Purina	73	73[illegible]
Raychem Corp	80	80[illegible]
Raytheon	48	48
Reebok Intl	43[illegible]	42[illegible]
Reynolds Metals	57[illegible]	56[illegible]
Rockwell Intl	64	64
Rohm & Haas	82[illegible]	81
Royal Dutch	168[illegible]	167[illegible]
Rubbermaid	23	23[illegible]
SBC Comms	49[illegible]	48[illegible]
Safeco Corp	39[illegible]	39
St Paul's Cos	58[illegible]	57[illegible]
Salomon Inc	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Sara Lee Corp	37	36[illegible]
Schering Plough	65[illegible]	63[illegible]
Schlumberger	103[illegible]	101[illegible]
Seagram	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Sears Roebuck	45[illegible]	44[illegible]
Shell Trans	98[illegible]	98
Sherwin Wlms	53[illegible]	54
Skyline Corp	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Snap-On-Tools	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Southern Co	22	21[illegible]
Sprint Corp	39[illegible]	38[illegible]
Stanley Works	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Sun Company	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Sun Microsys	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Suntrust	49	47[illegible]
Supervalu	28[illegible]	27[illegible]
Sysco Corp	33	33[illegible]
TRW Inc	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
TCC Inds	1[illegible]	1[illegible]
Tandem Comp	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
Tandy Corp	43	43[illegible]
Temple Inland	53[illegible]	52[illegible]
Tenneco	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Texaco	97[illegible]	97[illegible]
Texas Inst	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Texas Utilities	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
Textron	90	90[illegible]
Time Warner	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Times-Mirror A	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Timken	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Torchmark	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
Toys R Us	31[illegible]	32[illegible]
Transamerica	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Travelers	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Tribune	76[illegible]	76[illegible]
Tyco Int	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
UST Inc	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
UAL	59[illegible]	60[illegible]
US Inds	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
US West Comm	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
USX Marathon	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Unicom	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Unilever NV	166[illegible]	164[illegible]
Union Camp	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Union Carbide	40	39[illegible]
Union Pacific	59	58
Unisys Corp	6[illegible]	7
USAir Group	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
USF&G Corp	20[illegible]	20
US Life	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
United Tech	65[illegible]	64[illegible]
Unocal Corp	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
VF Corp	65[illegible]	65[illegible]
WMX Tech	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	76[illegible]	74[illegible]
Wells Fargo	274[illegible]	270[illegible]
Westinghouse El	17[illegible]	17[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Whirlpool	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Whitman	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Winn Dixie	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
Woolworth	22[illegible]	22
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Xerox	51	51[illegible]
Yellow Corp	13[illegible]	13[illegible]

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Policing by the book

THE Metropolitan Police made a surprise visit yesterday to the West End offices of Dennis Publishing.

As a Christmas prank (supposedly) one of the staff hung out a sign saying "Help, I am being held here against my will". A concerned local resident dialled 999 on seeing the note, and the police immediately sent round officers to investigate.

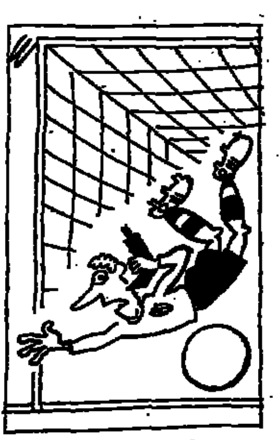
A rather bemused receptionist told the officers that she could hardly stop people leaving at the end of an evening, and a relieved constable replied: "We'll have to get the armed hostage squad off alert, then."

Sunken feeling

POOR Russell Jones, property director of Newcastle United, is ruing the length of time it has taken for Newcastle City Council to approve the club's scheme to build a new stadium. He claims to have come up with the idea for a sunken pitch and was sick as a parrot when he saw the plans for the new stadium for deadly rivals Sunderland Football Club with, guess what, a sunken pitch.

Miles worse

TEETHING trouble at the Kuwaiti Investment Office which yesterday hosted its first annual draw. Dissent broke out among employees on the announcement of the rules drawn up to qualify for air miles amassed by KIO's high-flying executives. Staff were required to have worked at least six hours a week overtime. Even one day off work sick would have invalidated their entry. Into the hat went 60 names: 20 lucky winners flew off with between 500 and 3,500 air miles.



"Sell United"

Skirting issues

ROBERT THOMSON, the chief executive of Scottish Friendly Assurance Society, will be donning his kilt in Mackintosh tartan tonight for a ceilidh at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. Word has it that, not to be outshone, Thomson has been in training for the gathering.

In character

THE urbane Martin Taylor, the chief executive at Barclays, will be rubbing shoulders with the banking unions today. Fortunately for Taylor, he is fluent in a number of languages, not least of which is Mandarin.

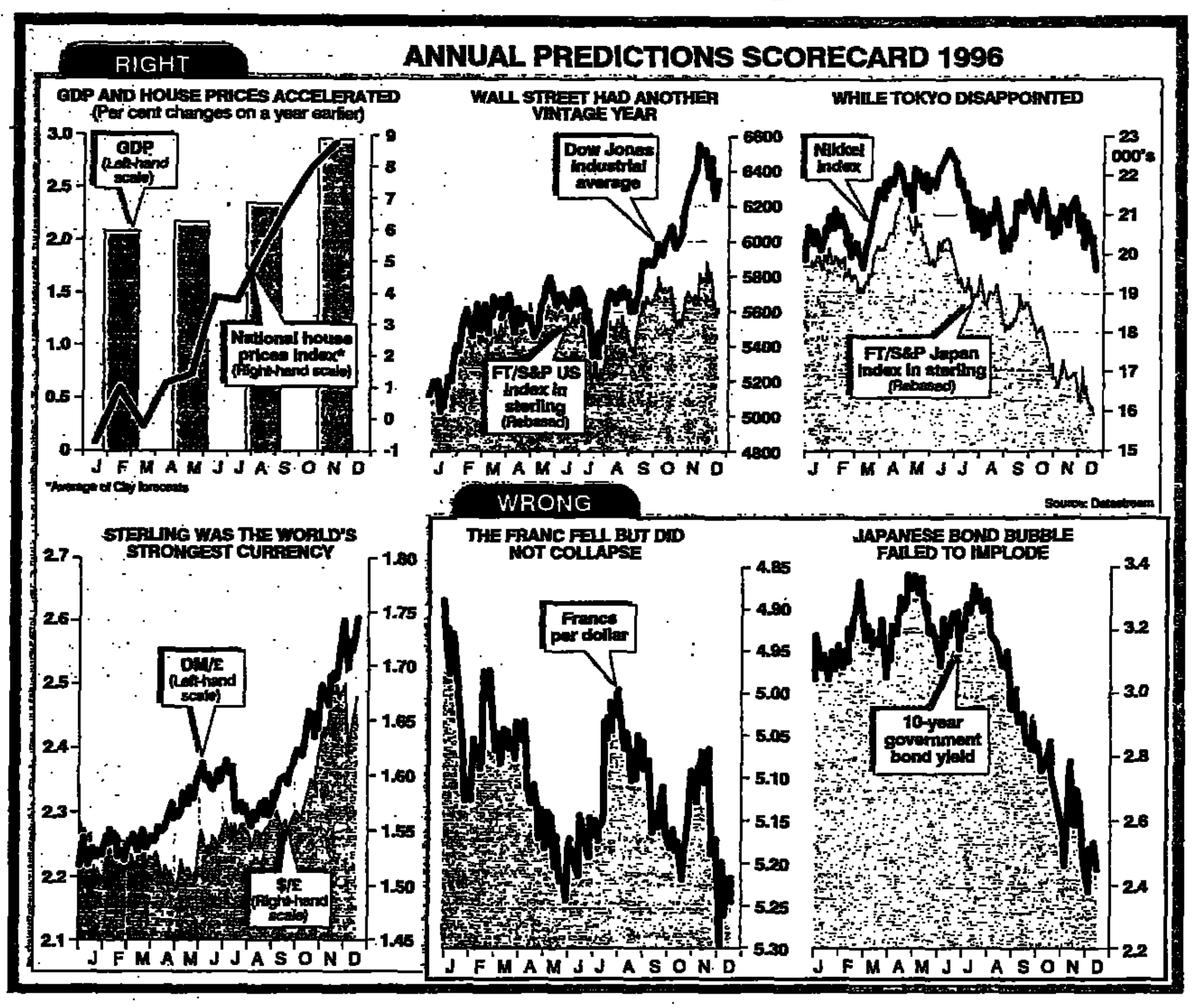
Tread carefully

HOT off the press comes the second issue of the Treasury's Accommodation and Secretary Team bulletin. As well as numerous reminders on how not to start a fire (don't load the electrical circuits with electrical fires, electric kettles, and other electrical appliances, other than necessary office equipment), there is a tempting paragraph titled "Sticky Situations". Under desks, trodden into floors, and even around the urinals are just a few of the places that chewing gum has been found lurking. Yours Disgusted.

ANATOLE KALETSKY

A sterling forecast that funds ought not to have ignored

Far-fetched sounding predictions proved to be the most reliable



Few things in life are more more pleasant than saying "I told you so" — and few things more dangerous. It is therefore with some trepidation that I turn to the annual task of reviewing the new year predictions that I made last January. My forecasts for 1996 proved remarkably successful and I am all too aware that luck has a way of turning after a winning streak. Readers may do well to bear this in mind when I publish my views about 1997.

While most of the forecasts I made turned out to be right, the best ones, as usual, were the ones that seemed most far-fetched at the time. I said that the pound would be the best pick among the world's major currencies, an idea considered risible by most economists and investors a year ago. My faith in the pound was based on confidence that the Britsih economy would grow faster than generally expected, while most other leading economies would disappoint.

As the year progressed and it became more apparent that the pound had bottomed, my confidence grew and I presented a number of other arguments in favour of sterling — among them the likelihood that a future Labour government would impose higher interest rates than the Tories, combined with a somewhat looser fiscal policy.

So far, this analysis has worked well and the pound has been easily the strongest of the major currency. In the past few weeks sterling has shown signs of a reversal, but it is far too early to suppose that the underlying trend has again turned down.

My second contrarian call, for the second year running, was about Wall Street. I stuck firmly to a view about American investment which most professional fund managers, especially in the City of London contemptuously rejected and still reject. This view was, quite simply, that American shares were still good value and that the widely dreaded Wall Street crash was not even on the horizon.

I rejected the popular argument that dividend yields on Wall Street were too low or that the heady rate of price gains had set the market up for a crash. Both of these propositions seemed to be based on a wishful misreading of the statistics by analysts and investors who had simply made the strategic mistake of underestimating US profits growth.

Of course, after a gain of a further 20 per cent in the past 12 months, the question of Wall Street's underlying value has to be considered afresh and I shall try to do that on January 10. For the moment, suffice it to say that the still-dreaded crash is unlikely to happen between now and then.

My third, even more controversial, conviction was about stock markets in Japan and Asia. I was convinced that the Japanese market would go nowhere, while most of the Asian emerging markets would continue to fall.

The view among the professionals could not have been more different. Last January, the Merrill Lynch survey of British fund managers, who between them controlled assets worth more than £1,000 billion, showed bulls on Japan outnumbering bears by a record 78 percentage points.

In the event, of course, Tokyo put in a dismal performance — culminating in this week's meltdown which has taken the market to a new low for the year in yen terms and a loss of more than 20 per cent for British investors who were also exposed to the sharp fall of the yen against the pound. A year ago the professionals were also extremely optimistic about Asian emerging markets, which have in general performed even worse. These same people were overwhelmingly bearish about the prospects for Wall Street.

Taking account of the profits foregone on Wall Street by redirecting money from America to Japan, the total losses for British pension funds from this one strategic blunder can be reckoned at 30 per cent or more.

To judge by the latest Merrill Lynch surveys, these same British investors (along with their fellows in other financial centres, most of whom made the same mistake) have now finally given up on Tokyo and the Pacific Basin. Given their recent track record this may be a signal that the Asian markets are finally worth buying — a question to which I shall return next month.

Turning to economics, I singled out Britain as the country most likely to produce a positive economic surprise, suggested that growth might also be somewhat higher than expected in America, but that growth in Germany and Japan would disappoint.

In France I foresaw an "outright recession". This was correct in technical terms, since French GDP did decline for two successive quarters, but it reflected an inaccurate assessment of the French Government's ability to stick to its commitments on European monetary union. That, in turn, led to two of the three big mistakes I made in my financial forecasts.

I thought the franc would suffer "a string of crises" and would eventually be devalued against the mark. This turned out to be wrong, although I did suggest that bets against *franc fort* could be hedged by selling francs against dollars, rather than marks. This was a chance seized with alacrity by many British and American residents in France and it yielded a profit of about 7 per cent.

I also wrongly believed that the fears about EMU would put "a surprisingly high floor" under long-term interest rates in Germany and in the rest of Europe. The reality, of course, has been very different. Although German bond yields did rise in the first half of the year, surprising many investors, they have now fallen back to about last January's level.

Meanwhile, there has been the bull market of a lifetime in the bonds of other European countries, especially Italy and Spain, which were not even considered serious candidates for EMU a year ago. Arguably they are still not serious candidates, but nobody can deny the serious profits made by investors who have chosen to take them seriously.

My third big mistake also related to bonds. Like most rational people, I expected a collapse in the Japanese bond market, where insurance companies were eagerly buying ten-year government debt yielding less than 3 per cent to fund contracts with guaranteed returns of 4 per cent or more. But instead of exploding or imploding, the Japanese bond bubble just continued to grow.

Today Japanese bonds are yielding less than 2.5 per cent — and the insurance industry is using them to guarantee returns of 3 per cent plus. I still think, as I said back in January that "the Tokyo bond market is the next Japanese financial accident waiting to happen". But the Japanese are a patient people, as well as being remarkably accident-prone. So the long wait for the next financial accident will just have to go on.

Returning to Britain, I foresaw that growth would exceed 3 per cent year-on-year by the fourth quarter (the consensus estimate today is 2.9 per cent) and predicted that "the widespread pessimism about consumption, jobs and housing will soon start to lift". This was not very original; in fact it was the view in the Treasury's official forecasts.

But conventional views about the consequences of stronger growth were pessimistic. For example, many forecasters were still predicting that house prices would go on falling. I said, by contrast, that housing offered "stunningly attractive" value and prices would rise by "nearer 10 per cent than the 2 or 3 per cent most experts predict". This turned out to be right, with the latest figures from the Nationwide Building Society showing a rise of 9 per cent.

I also argued that there was nothing surprising about the economic "feel-bad" factor which still preoccupied political commentators a year ago: it was simply a function of the slowest growth in nominal disposable income in 40 years and would be replaced by the elusive "feel-good" factor with the return of robust economic growth. But I disagreed with the Tory economic determinists, such as Michael Heseltine, who believed (and still believe) that rising disposable incomes would automatically lift the Government's political fortunes.

I maintained (and still maintain) that, with the return of prosperity, politics would become more detached from economics. "The economic revival is unlikely to do John Major much good," I said in January. That is one prediction that I will certainly be making again in my 1997 outlook, which should appear here on January 10.

Electricity pool up to its neck in troubles

Christine Buckley assesses the latest clashes afflicting the power industry

Once again the electricity marketplace is under fire. Critics are mounting a two-pronged attack — over the price of electricity in the pool, the power trading forum, and over extra payments made to generators to ensure security of supply.

Large energy-user groups are lobbying the industry regulator and the Department of Trade and Industry for change — so far with no signs of success.

Prices, they argue, are too high with generation indicating none of the price pressure promised from increased competition. The regulator had argued that more generators would create keener prices in the price-setting area of the market and ordered National Power and PowerGen to sell stations. After several months of a new player joining the two main generators and First Hydro, the peak electricity producer, no difference in electricity pool prices has materialised.

In fact since Eastern bought power stations from National Power and PowerGen the price of electricity has been unseasonally high with greater payments made to the generators. On top of the rewards offered to electricity producers for making stations available to feed high electricity demands are fresh incentives to combat generating instability created by gas contracts that can be interrupted. These contracts are struck between gas suppliers and generators at reduced prices on the basis that they may be temporarily halted at the wish of the supplier.

The DTI has urged the pool to instigate measures to ensure security of supply. Last winter the supply system came near to collapse twice. The new payments for power station standby, staff costs and some switching from gas to more expensive fuels, along with general payments for capacity, pump up the spot price of electricity.

There are also fears that the payments will enable generators to arbitrage between the gas and electricity markets, selling their gas into the gas market and then receiving payments for switching to more expensive fuels or bringing on standby stations. The regulator cannot interfere with the pool's decision unless there is an appeal from a member of the organisation.

The conflicts focus fresh attention on the much criticised electricity pool. It is by no means the first time it has been attacked in its six-year history. Recently J Sainsbury led a group of commercial customers in withholding part of their electricity bills in protest at the rise in the cost of meters. The pool has faced calls from all energy consumer groups for it to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Rising complaints have triggered increased pressure for demand-side bidding — large customers indicating what they want and the price they are prepared to pay.

The price of electricity in the pool comprises three parts — the price bid by the generators, payment for declaring power stations available and an amount for capacity held in reserve and constraints on the transmission system. The bid price generators receive comes not from individual bids but from the price bid by the last power station declared necessary to meet expected demand. This will be the costliest station called to run — as the cheapest are summoned first. In periods of high demand and tight availability of power stations, capacity payments can rocket. The capacity payments, which came under enormous customer fire in the summer, were designed to allow generators to recover fixed costs and realise a return on their assets.

In August the payments jumped to their highest level since privatisation. An investigation by the regulator was said to have unearthed no irregularities. From the start of the pool, established to orchestrate a privatised industry in a way that will ensure the lights stay on, doubts have hung over the likely outcome of such payments. Restriction of power station availability can bump up payments, which will merely improve the generators' profits. The large generators both had price caps removed earlier this year. Since then the pool selling price has jumped considerably.

> ‘Last winter the system twice came near to collapse’

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The gal who pulls in mega-bucks

Carl Mortished checks out the charms of Barbie, the fashion icon

For designer glitter, head uptown to Madison Avenue where the very rich and the very thin buy frills and furs. This patch of New York, a block from Fifth Avenue and Central Park, houses and clothes the City's most elegant and most extravagant.

But the very pinnacle of chic is not to be found at Armani, Donna Karan or Versace. Instead, walk a little further on to FAO Schwarz, where New York's famous toy emporium has erected a temple to the world's most successful fashion model.

Through a plate glass window two stories high, bathed in light, is Barbara Millicent Roberts — better known as Barbie. Clad in a tight-fitting little black cocktail dress with golden tresses flying, she clutches a pink chiffon scarf and croons into a microphone. She is Barbie the torch singer, "Solo in the spotlight".

Surrounding the floor-to-ceiling image are Barbies in display

crowned and holding the flame of liberty. There are Barbies in national dress and "My Fair Lady", Barbie as Eliza Doolittle.

There is further evidence that this is no mere plastic plaything. Priced at $200-$300, devotees can buy Barbie as "Goddess of the Sun" designed by Christian Dior. Collectors prize such items and original Mattel Barbies from 1959 fetch upwards of £4,000 at auction. Yvonne Bentley, of Phillips, the auctioneer, says Barbie is a fashion icon collected by adults. "Quite a lot of men collect Barbie dolls. Barbie keeps pace with fashion trends and has become a cult. Wide skirts in the Fifties, mini-skirts in the Sixties and hot pants in the Seventies."

Collectors lovingly study every detail, particularly the clothes and make-up. Even Barbie's mouth has changed over the years to the wide smile of a Cindy Crawford.

Collecting is important, but a small portion of Mattel's $1.4

"Lieutenant Barbie", left, and "Happy Holidays Barbie"

children. Mattel claims that a billion Barbies have been sold worldwide since 1959. Sales in the UK are approaching £100 million a year, or some five million dolls. With such numbers, it is easy for Mattel to

its durability is both fascinating and puzzling. Always 17 but never been kissed, Barbie has a timeless quality. She graduated from Willow High School, but oddly for such an ambitious American girl never

festations: astronaut, air stewardess, and nurse. More recently, she was "Busy gal Barbie" the businesswoman.

Could Barbie be more than she seems? Her namesake, Saint Barbara, was a virgin martyr who lived in Asia minor in the 3rd century. Locked in a tower by a jealous father to discourage suitors, she was baptised secretly. Enraged, the father tortured and executed her. Barbie as virgin heroine is not such a fanciful concept. Throughout history, cults have emerged around female figures representing fertility and chastity without apparent contradiction.

Today's gift of Barbie is a more secular practice, but fans of the doll will recognise similar characteristics: the curiously enlarged breasts on the impossibly slim, chaste frame.

Back on Madison Avenue, the god is still mammon, but inside FAO Schwarz, devotees gather at Barbie's temple. A young mother with a toddler points to the huge Barbie image. "Look, Barbie, Barbie," she repeats. "Bobby, baby" gurgles the little girl. "No, Barbie, Barbie," insists moth-

[illegible]

Future of NSM in doubt as talks begin with banks

BY MARTIN BARROW, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NSM, the troubled private mining company, is in talks with its banks after new operational difficulties caused a shortage of working capital, raising questions about the company's long-term survival.

NSM said that it remained convinced about the viability of its South Wales anthracite operation, provided funds were available to complete the development and to lift production to optimum levels by mid-1997.

Shares of NSM fell 4p, to 8p, yesterday after the company said that it would take an exceptional charge of £71.4 million on the sale of operations, primarily in the United States.

Last month the company appointed PaineWebber Inc, the American merchant bank, to secure a buyer for its operations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, which are likely to be sold separately.

The businesses, already affected by depressed coal prices in America, have encountered environmental and geological problems. West Virginia was closed for some months while restoration work was under way, although operations have now been reopened to honour local contracts and to complete the outstanding work.

The Pennsylvanian operation is now effectively reduced to one major opencast site and three deep mines, although NSM says that many of the cash-consuming restoration and environmental difficulties have now been completed.

John Jermine, chairman of NSM, said: "There is a returning confidence in the United States coal sector with the expectation of gradually increasing coal prices in coming years, making it an attractive proposition for investors able to take a longer term perspective." Progress had been made in identifying potential buyers of the business in Pennsylvania, he added.

Provisions left NSM nursing a pre-tax loss of £75.65 million in the half-year to September 30, against profits of £2.52 million. The loss per share was 123p (earnings of 3.9p). There is again no dividend.

The operating loss was £400,000 (£5.6 million profit), comprising a profit of £2.1 million in the UK, and losses of £1.7 million in America, less central costs. Turnover from continuing operations was £59.6 million, rising from £54.4 million previously.

Tempus, page 24

Graham Lockyer, the Triplex Lloyd chief executive, rejected William Cook's forecasts

William Cook pledges growth

BY CLARE STEWART

HOSTILITIES in Triplex Lloyd's bid battle for William Cook resumed yesterday when the steel castings group hit back with promises of strong growth.

William Cook, the target of a £58 million bid from Triplex Lloyd, said that it expects pre-tax profits to rise by at least 26 per cent, to £10.7 million, in the year to March 29. It said that earnings would increase by not less than 35 per cent, to 36.2p, and the final dividend by 43 per cent, to 9.25p.

Andrew Cook, chairman, said: "These forecasts demonstrate that Triplex Lloyd's ludicrously low bid fails to recognise William Cook's consistent record of growth in profits."

Triplex Lloyd responded by challenging the basis for the forecasts, citing a report in October by William Cook's broker, UBS, which had forecast pre-tax profits for the year to rise by less than 5 per cent, to £8.8 million. The company said that William Cook was expecting "an implausible upturn".

Graham Lockyer, Triplex Lloyd chief executive, said: "We simply do not accept this profit forecast as representing a sustainable level of profitability for William Cook under its current management."

The Triplex offer has received initial acceptances of 5.6 per cent, and a higher offer is widely expected. At yesterday's price, the Triplex offer was worth 309p per William Cook share.

William Cook shares rose 2½p to 357½p yesterday. Triplex Lloyd shares stayed at 205p.

Regulator accuses Endesa

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE regulator of Spain's stock exchanges is to take action against Endesa, the state-controlled electricity company, and its chairman and finance director, amid allegations of "a very grave infraction" of stock exchange rules.

Endesa is charged with not telling the CNMV regulatory commission of its plans to bid for 75 per cent of the regional utilities Fuerzas Electricas de Catalunya and Sevillana de Electricidad in October.

On October 10, Endesa told the CNMV that a press report that the deals were imminent was untrue, but Endesa shares rose on the report. On October 17, Endesa told the CNMV it was making the takeovers.

Endesa could be fined up to £240 million, and Feliciano Fuster, chairman, and José Luis Palomo, finance director, up to £250,000 each.

Pressac to buy Italamec

BY CHRIS AYRES

PRESSAC, the electronics group, is set to make another major move forward in the automotive industry with the purchase of Italamec, the Italian mechanical and electronic components manufacturer, for £20.7 million.

The deal, which will boost Pressac's turnover to an estimated £100 million, follows the group's successful takeover in 1994 of McGavigan, the Glasgow manufacturer of printed displays for vehicle dashboards.

The acquisition will be funded through a one-for-three rights issue of up to 12.5 million new ordinary shares, priced at 180p each. Existing shares rose ½p to 215p yesterday.

The vendors of Italamec will receive a further £1.1 million if it meets Pressac's sales targets. The company made pre-tax profits of £3.4 million in the ten months to October 31.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Irish Life pays $163m for American insurer

IRISH LIFE, the Irish Republic's largest assurance group, is to pay $163 million for the privately owned Guarantee Reserve Life Insurance Company, based in Illinois. The acquisition is the largest purchase ever undertaken by the Irish company. It will be funded from the group's existing resources and from debt financing. uarantee Reserve is licensed to write life assurance and accident and health business in 47 states and in Washington DC. The company concentrates on risk cover for older age groups, and, in 1995, its premium income topped $81 million.

David Kingston, Irish Life's managing director, said that the acquisition represented a very significant development of the company's US business. He added that Guarantee Reserve's innovative marketing and distribution approach would open up new growth opportunities for Irish Life's existing US business and he predicted that the acquisition would be earnings enhancing in 1997. In September, Irish Life reported a 20 per cent jump in its key profit indicator — embedded value earnings — to Ir£48 million for the first half of 1996.

Jones & Shipman steady

JONES & SHIPMAN, the machine tools manufacturer, reported pre-tax profits of £609,000 for the six months to September 30, little changed from £619,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 2.1p a share (2.1p). The interim dividend is 0.5p a share (nil). The shares fell 2½p to 41½p. Turnover increased to £9.4 million from £8.9 million. The company, which exports about two thirds of output, said that the strengthening of the pound would inevitably have an adverse impact on sales and profits.

GE raises dividend

AMERICA'S General Electric Co has increased its quarterly dividend and share repurchase programme, and announced a 2-for-1 stock split. GE's board voted to lift the quarterly dividend 13 per cent to 52 cents a share from 46 cents a share, payable on January 27. GE also increased its share repurchase programme from $9 billion to $13 billion and extended the programme through 1998. This allows GE to continue its daily stock purchases at an annual rate of $3 billion to $3.5 billion through 1998.

Joint venture for GA

GENERAL ACCIDENT has announced the formation of a joint venture company to exploit the fast-growing Indonesian insurance market. Based in Jakarta, the new company will write general insurance and will be 60 per cent owned by GA and 40 per cent by PT Ometraco Arthaguna. It will have a paid up capital of £4 million. Ometraco is a conglomerate with interests in Indonesia which include financial services, infrastructure and consumer products.

SME's £27m landfill deal

SHANKS & McEWAN (SME), the waste management company, is paying Hanson a total of £27 million for the freehold of five landfill sites it currently leases, and additional unconsented landfill space in separate transactions. SME is paying £15 million for five sites located in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire. It will also acquire an additional 20 million cubic metres of unconsented landfill void at four sites for £12 million, and has pledged a further £5 million towards road improvements.

London Merchant firm

LONDON Merchant Securities, the property development and investment company with interests in the leisure sector, is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 0.8p a share, after reporting pre-tax profits of £15.1 million for the half-year to September 30. In the first half of the previous year profits were £25.9 million, which included a £17 million gain from the sale of part of the company's shareholding in First Leisure Corporation. Earnings were 3.69p a share (7.58p).

Duller look for Armour

PRE-TAX profits at Armour Trust, the industrial holding company with interests in the automotive, chemicals and personal care sectors, fell to £539,000 in the half year to November 1 from £1.3 million in the first half of the previous year, reflecting the impact of the disposal of the confectionery division. Earnings fell to 0.7p a share from 2.5p, but the interim dividend is being held at 0.46p a share. Trading profits from continuing operations dropped to £1 million from £1.3 million.

Warner Estate advances

WARNER Estate Holdings, the diversified UK property investment company, lifted net assets to 259p a share from 235p in the year to September 30. Pre-tax profits rose to £16.18 million from £14.22 million and earnings increased to 15.92p a share from 13.85p. The total dividend is increased to 12.2p a share from 11.75p, with a final of 8.2p. The company said that the recovery in net assets was attributable mainly to the increase in the stock market value of its investment in The Bradford Property Trust. The shares rose 9p to 197½p.

Open General Licence
Chemical Weapons Act 1996
Date of issue: 1 January 1997

This Licence is granted by the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996 (c.6).

1. Interpretation

(1) In this Licence "Chemical" means any chemical referred to in the Schedule hereto.

(2) The Schedule forms part of this Licence together with any subsequent Schedule(s) which the Secretary of State may issue as a variation to this Licence at a later date.

2. Authorisation

Subject to the terms set out below, this Licence authorises any person-

(a) to produce any Chemical with the intention that it will be used for research, medical and/or pharmaceutical purposes and in a quantity which can be justified for such purposes; and

(b) to have in his possession and use any Chemical for or with the intention that it will be used for research, medical, pharmaceutical and/or protective purposes and in a quantity which can be justified for such purposes.

3. Restrictions

(1) A person shall not produce Chemicals in an aggregate amount exceeding 5 grammes in any calendar year.

(2) A person shall not use or have in his possession more than an aggregate amount of 5 grammes of Chemicals at any time.

4. Notification to the Secretary of State

(1) (a) a person shall immediately notify the Secretary of State if he has any Chemical in his possession at the date hereof and shall notify the Secretary of State within 14 days if he produces or otherwise acquires possession of any Chemical at any time hereafter.

(b) a person who is required to notify the Secretary of State pursuant to sub-clause (1)(a) above shall give particulars of -

(i) his name and address; and

(ii) the location where he produced and/or has the Chemical in his possession.

(c) the person shall notify the Secretary of State within 14 days after any change to any of the said particulars.

(d) where a person has notified the Secretary of State under sub-clause (1)(a) he shall notify the Secretary of State by 15th January in each subsequent year if he still has the Chemical in his possession on 1st January in that year.

(2) A person shall notify the Secretary of State at least 50 days in advance if he intends to import from or export to another Member State of the European Community either of the Chemicals numbered (7) and (8) in the Schedule. He must identify in the notice the Chemical, the quantity, the purpose(s) and the proposed date of the importation or exportation, and the name and address of the transferor or consignee or end user, as the case may be.

(3) Any notice to be given by a person under this clause shall be in writing and shall be sent by post or delivered to the Chemical Weapons Authority, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW.

5. Records

A person who produces, has in his possession, or uses a Chemical shall keep a written record for a period of 3 years of -

(a) its name, structural formula, Chemical Abstracts Service registry number (if any) and quantity;

(b) the purpose(s) for which it was produced, in his possession; or used; and

(c) the person from whom he acquired it and/or to whom he has transferred it (if any).

He must permit a person authorised by the Secretary of State to examine and take copies of such records at any reasonable time.

6. Commencement

This Licence shall come into force on 1st January 1997.

An Official of the Department of Trade and Industry authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Schedule
Chemicals

		(CAS registry number)
(1)	O-Alkyl (< C10, incl. cycloalkyl) alkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-phosphonofluoridates	
	e.g. Sarin: O-Isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate	(107-44-8)
	Soman: O-Pinacolyl methyphosphonofluoridate	(96-64-0)
(2)	O-Alkyl (<C10, incl. cycloalkyl) N,N-dialkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr phosphoramidocyanidates	
	e.g. Tabun: O-Ethyl N,N-dimethyl phosphoramidocyanidate	(77-81-6)
(3)	O-Alkyl (H or <C10, incl. cycloalkyl) S-2-dialkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-aminoethyl alkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-phosphonothiolates and corresponding alkylated or protonated salts	
	e.g. VX: O-Ethyl S-2-diisopropylaminoethyl methyl phosphonothiolate	(50782-69-90)
(4)	Sulfur mustards:	
	2-Chloroethylchloromethylsulfide	(2625-76-5)
	Mustard gas: Bis (2-chloroethyl) sulfide	(505-60-2)
	Bis (2-chloroethylthio) methane	(63869-13-6)
	Sesquimustard: 1,2-Bis (2-chloroethylthio) ethane	(3563-36-8)
	1,3-Bis (2-chloroethylthio)-n-propane	(63905-10-2)
	1,4-Bis (2-chloroethylthio)-n-butane	(142868-93-7)
	1,5-Bis (2-chloroethylthio)-n-pentane	(142868-94-8)
	Bis (2-chloroethylthiomethyl) ether	(63918-90-1)
	()-Mustard: Bis (2-chloroethylthioethyl) ether	(63918-89-8)
(5)	Lewisites:	
	Lewisite 1: 2-Chlorovinyldichloroarsine	(541-25-3)
	Lewisite 2: Bis (2-chlorovinyl) chloroarsine	(40334-69-8)
	Lewisite 3: Tris (2-chlorovinyl) arsine	(40334-70-1)
(6)	Nitrogen Mustards:	
	HN1: Bis (2-chloroethyl) ethylamine	(538-07-8)
	HN2: Bis (2-chloroethyl) methylamine	(51-75-2)
	HN3: Tris (2-chloroethyl) amine	(555-77-1)
(7)	Saxitoxin	(35523-89-8)
(8)	Ricin	(9009-86-3)
(9)	Alkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr) phosphonyldifluorides	
	e.g. DF: Methylphosphonyldifluoride	(676-99-3)
(10)	O-Alkyl (H or <C10, incl. cycloalkyl) O-2-dialkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-aminoethyl aklyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr) phosphonites and corresponding aklylated or protonated salts.	
	e.g. QL: O-Ethyl O-2-diisopropylaminoethyl methylphosphonite	(57856-11-8)
(11)	Chlorosarin: O-Isopropyl methylphosphonochloridate	(1445-76-7)
(12)	Chlorosoman: O-Pinacolyl methylphosphonochloridate	(7040-57-5)

Notes:

1. In this Schedule the reference to the CAS registry is to the Chemical Abstract Service registry.
2. This Schedule must be read subject to the following proposition, where reference is made to groups of dialkylated chemicals, followed by a list of alkyl groups in parentheses, all chemicals possible by all possible

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PUBLIC NOTICES

H. M. Land Registry
Lost certificates

It is proposed to issue a new certificate to replace the one described below that is stated to have been lost or destroyed. Anyone possessing the missing certificate or objecting to the issue of a new one should at once notify The Tunbridge Wells District Land Registry of Curtis House, Forest Road, Hawkenbury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5AQ.

Land Certificate Freehold Title Number K97068 - Ground Floor Flat 26 Kingsgate Castle, Broadstairs, Kent.

Proprietor: Sarah Louise Slomovic of 14 Greatwood, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5HU. (Now of 2010 McLendon, Houston, Texas, USA.)

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.182(A)
Millbean Limited (formerly Bermer Limited)
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Mr Malcolm Cohen, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Messrs BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, was appointed Liquidator of the above named company following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the company on 12 December 1996.

The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182(A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details in writing of any claim against the company to the Liquidator at the above address by 20 January 1997. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182(A)(6) that he intends to make a distribution to creditors who, by 20 January 1997, have submitted their claims, otherwise a distribution will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. No further public advertisement or invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated: 12 December 1996
M Cohen
Liquidator

Note
This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.

DEBBAGE & TUBBY LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Queen Street, Norwich, NR2 4ST on 30th December 1996 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act, viz:

a. To have laid before it a statement as to the affairs of the Company.

b. To nominate one or more Insolvency Practitioners as Liquidator or Liquidators.

c. If thought fit, to establish a Liquidation Committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at the offices of Larking Gowen at 7 Queen Street, Norwich, NR2 4ST between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm on 23rd and 24th December 1996. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting and who are not attending in person must lodge their proxies at 7 Queen Street, Norwich, NR2 4ST no later than 12 noon on 24th December 1996. A written statement of claim must also be lodged by all creditors wishing to vote at the meeting. For the purposes of voting only, a secured creditor is required to submit a statement giving particulars of his security, its value and the estimated unsecured balance of his debt.

Dated this 6th December 1994.
B.T. Tubby
Director

DENJ LIMITED T/A THE STONEBRIDGE MANOR HOTEL
In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: 2818106

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at BDO Stoy Hayward, Beneficial Building, 28 Paradise Circus, Queensway, Birmingham B1 2BJ on 23 December 1996 at 11.00 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at BDO Stoy Hayward, Beneficial Building, 28 Paradise Circus, Queensway, Birmingham B1 2BJ, not later than 12.00 hrs on 20 December 1996 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

G S Kinlan
Joint Administrative Receiver

HILL SAMUEL (ST JAMES'S) LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1082756
INVESTMENT REGISTRY LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 78605
REAMHURST DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 800868
SEGMAY INVESTMENTS LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 754643
WOOD STREET FINANCE (NO 4) LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1997383
(ALL COMPANIES IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above companies intends to make a distribution to creditors within four months of 31 January 1997. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the Liquidator, Peter Joseph Beirne, KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 31 January 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company. Notice is also given that the intended distribution to creditors will be the final distribution to creditors and that it will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the Liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.

Note: the companies are able to pay all their known creditors in

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EU-funded regeneration projects 'stifled by lack of strategy'

Mersey revival plan off the beat

BY MATTHEW WALL

MERSEYSIDE'S attempts at social and economic regeneration are being stifled by lack of strategy, sloppy monitoring and bureaucracy, a consultants' report concludes.

Merseyside was designated an Objective One region eligible for European Union Structural Fund support in 1993. In spite of being half way through a six-year £628 million regeneration programme funded by the European Union, just 3 per cent of the job-creation target and only 8 per cent of the private sector investment target has been achieved, according to Pieda, the consultants commissioned by the Government Office for Merseyside, which is responsible for overseeing the programme.

Just 17 per cent of people trained through European-funded vocational courses have gone on to get jobs, says Pieda, and it is "very unlikely"

Liverpool city centre and river, the heart of Merseyside

is unclear how much it has to do with European funding rather than improvement in the UK economy.

Approvals of projects are subject to "considerable delays" and there has been a lack of integration and co-ordination between related projects.

mental schemes. Pieda also says the monitoring committee, part of the Objective One Secretariat in the Government Office for Merseyside, has failed to keep a sufficiently close eye on the progress of major projects. John Stoker, chairman of the monitoring

become deputy director of the Office of the National Lottery (Oflot) early next year.

Small businesses have been largely ignored, especially since two of the three Business Links set up in the region specifically to help small businesses, have gone bust. But the Merseyside Special Investment Fund, a source of venture capital funding for small businesses, is proving useful and popular.

In spite of the criticisms, Pieda concludes that the economic regeneration model being used is "broadly correct" and that it should deliver the targets of 3 per cent per capita increase in gross domestic product, and 16,000 net new jobs eventually.

A project that is proving successful is the Pathways scheme, where disadvantaged local communities have a say in developing job-creation strategies in their areas. This "bottom-up" approach circumvents much of the bureau-

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grolund Amer	227.50	240.70†	+ 1.50	
Grolund Equity	286.40	304.50	+ 1.90	1.92
Grolund Euro	259.80	274.90	+ 0.30	0.59
Grolund Exot Bal	132.30	137.10		2.57
Grolund Corp Bd	78.11	78.83	- 0.01	6.61
Grolund Japan	143.50	151.90†	+ 2.70	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	679.90	723.40	+ 0.90	2.48
General Inc	507.80	583.90	+ 0.80	2.48
UK Growth Acc	488.50	488.50	+ 1.20	2.63
UK Growth Inc	303.28	322.80	+ 0.80	2.63
Higher Inc Acc	832.10	885.30	+ 2.30	4.06
Higher Inc Inc	443.30	471.70	+ 1.30	4.06
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	212.90	224.10		5.46
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.93	98.15	- 0.01	5.46
Nth America	358.90	381.90	+ 4.20	
Europe	353.50	376.30	+ 0.30	0.44
Brit Exect	92.84	98.77†	+ 0.27	2.75
Brit Fodnttis Acc	118.60	126.20	+ 0.40	4.41
Brit Fodnttis Inc	79.34	84.41	+ 0.30	4.41
Global Opps	98.22	104.80†	+ 0.10	
Balanced Acc	63.50	67.58	+ 0.12	2.55
Balanced Inc	58.29	62.08	+ 0.11	2.55
Japan Acc	39.74	42.28	- 0.62	
Pac Basin Acc	387.80	412.60	+ 3.10	0.91
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.00	139.00†	+ 0.20	7.02
High Inc Equity	185.30	198.20	+ 0.80	4.35
Worldwide Bond	281.50	304.70†	- 0.50	4.70
American Growth	382.20	408.70	+ 4.40	0.31
Asian Pacific	307.80	329.20	+ 0.80	0.08
Assets & Earnings	305.70	327.00†	+ 0.70	2.89
Euro Capital Acc	185.00	197.90	- 0.10	0.80
Extra Inc	42.86	45.60†	+ 0.05	7.86
General	281.90	299.90	+ 1.40	2.92
Global Opps	67.55	71.86	+ 0.13	0.58
Japan	98.19	105.00	- 1.90	
Managed Inc	47.84	50.89†	+ 0.06	4.72
Mastertrust	165.30	176.60	+ 0.10	1.04
US Emerging Cos	202.60	215.50	+ 2.40	...
Ethical	82.03	87.27	+ 0.23	2.14
International	132.20	140.70	...	0.51
Dividend & Growth	69.44	73.87	+ 0.19	4.16
Global Gwth & Sec	73.78	78.83	- 0.08	2.38
Latin America	63.53	67.58	+ 0.76	...
Capital Reserve	146.50	146.60	...	4.77
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2341.00	2438.00	+ 4.00	...
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.90	62.18	+ 0.55	0.18
Emerging Mkts	67.87	71.72	+ 0.25	0.05
European	148.40	154.20	+ 0.80	...
Exempt	1094.00	1165.00	+ 10.00	1.09
Extra Income #	47.02	49.49†	+ 0.17	6.57
Far East Emg Eco	123.30	129.40	+ 0.30	0.48

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	102.20	108.90	+ 0.10	1.84
American Portfolio	123.46	131.10†	+ 2.00	1.05
European Portfolio	134.26	142.90	+ 1.84	0.64
High Income	52.19	53.33†	+ 0.20	7.45
Japanese Portfolio	57.98	61.60	- 1.28	...
Pacific Portfolio	153.75	165.33†	+ 0.93	1.08
UK Equity	97.79	104.41	+ 0.10	3.42
UK Equity & Bo	58.34	61.80	+ 0.14	5.19
UK Smlr Cos	51.52	55.11	+ 0.12	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	767.93	779.53	- 4.67	4.36
Fxd Int Sec	155.22	155.84	- 0.18	9.18
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	770.14	781.78	+ 1.53	4.32
Investment Acc	535.50	536.84	+ 7.10	
Fixed Int Inc	127.98	128.50	- 0.50	9.03
Fixed Int Acc	233.07	234.81	- 0.94	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.18	94.01	- 1.68	5.39
Buck Bio-Tech	43.22	47.11†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	188.30	197.73†	...	0.45
City Fin Assets	78.79	82.74		1.86
City Fin Intl	88.72	93.16†	- 0.79	0.14
Friars Hse Cap	314.64	334.72	...	2.52
Buckley Wwld Gen	135.87	144.02	+ 0.50	...
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	57.02	60.72†	...	3.52
Shaw Utilities	58.59	60.20†	- 0.93	6.05
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.89	54.99	+ 0.15	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	78.85	83.88	+ 0.62	
Dragon Growth	70.13	75.00	+ 0.33	0.22
Equity High Inc	90.94	97.44†	+ 0.28	4.22
-do- Accum	132.48	141.85	+ 0.42	4.22
Extra Income Inc	26.75	28.18	- 0.02	7.40
Extra Income Acc	29.44	31.01	- 0.02	7.40
European Gwth	82.05	85.84	+ 0.10	0.80
Evergreen	30.86	32.98	+ 0.13	...
General Equity	107.88	114.23	+ 0.37	2.79
Japan Growth	40.57	43.16	- 0.92	...
Pathgrow Gwth	65.22	69.85	+ 0.24	2.33
Pad Sml Cos Inc	37.30	40.11	+ 0.07	1.29
-do- Accum	39.76	42.75	+ 0.08	1.29
Retirement Inc #	27.82	29.84	+ 0.08	6.98
Special Sits	48.51	50.81	+ 0.18	2.81
UK & Overseas	58.97	62.57	+ 0.11	0.57
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	71.34	74.31	+ 0.10	4.08
Capital	84.64	88.16	+ 0.09	2.60
High Income	51.98	54.14†	- 0.02	6.70

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	77.95	83.01	+ 1.23	...
-do- Accum	77.95	83.01	+ 1.23	
Amer Smlr Cos	644.30	685.10	+ 11.60	...
-do- Accum	658.70	704.00	+ 11.80	
Capital Tst	394.30	419.50	- 0.50	1.09
-do- Accum	579.40	616.40	- 0.68	1.09
Cont Smlr Cos	58.24	62.08	+ 0.07	1.31
-do- Accum	61.96	66.05	+ 0.08	1.31
Convertible	141.80	150.60†	+ 0.30	5.10
-do- Accum	313.70	333.70†	+ 0.70	5.10
Emerging Markets	59.78	63.87†	+ 0.45	0.30
-do- Accum	60.27	64.39†	+ 0.45	0.39
European	147.00	155.80	+ 0.40	0.50
-do- Accum	156.70	165.00	+ 0.30	0.50
Extra Income	397.40	422.80	+ 1.20	4.45
-do- Accum	632.80	673.20	+ 1.90	4.45
Financial	173.10	184.10	+ 0.20	0.46
-do- Accum	184.00	195.70	+ 0.30	0.46
Gilt Trust	63.54	65.51	+ 0.02	6.65
-do- Accum	98.87	101.80		6.65
Health Fund Inc	242.00	258.50†	+ 3.00	...
-do- Accum	242.00	258.50†	+ 3.00	...
Income & Growth	229.00	243.60†	- 0.20	3.61
-do- Accum	370.00	393.60†	- 0.30	3.61
Intl Growth	418.50	444.10	+ 2.30	...
-do- Accum	462.50	492.10	+ 2.50	
Japan & Gen	148.60	155.80	- 2.60	
-do- Accum	148.10	157.50	- 2.80	
Monthly Inc #	201.70	214.60†	+ 0.30	4.38
-do- Accum #	202.90	215.80†	+ 0.30	4.38
Managed Port Inc	120.08	128.30	+ 0.10	1.42
-do- Accum	130.30	137.28	+ 0.30	1.42
Quarterly Income #	57.06	61.13†	+ 0.14	5.28
-do- Accum #	66.13	70.85†	+ 0.16	5.28
Recovery	327.10	349.80	- 0.10	
-do- Accum	388.20	413.00	- 0.20	
UK Growth	67.93	72.27	+ 0.08	2.76
-do- Accum	73.66	78.36	+ 0.07	2.76
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715885 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	60.84	64.89†	+ 0.47	0.11
FP Am Smlr Cos	194.40	207.30†	+ 1.10	
FP Asian Growth	274.30	292.50	+ 1.50	...
FP Australian	401.80	428.50	+ 0.90	...
FP Equity Dist	462.80	493.70†	+ 3.80	2.51
-do- Accum	£10.34	£11.02	+ 7.00	2.51
FP Euro Gth	285.80	304.90	+ 0.30	...
-do- Accum	312.70	333.50	+ 0.30	
FP Intl Bond	56.67	58.56	- 0.16	4.34
FP Intl Gth Dist	36.84	39.28†		0.07
-do- Accum	54.12	57.72	+ 0.01	0.07
FP Pac Basin Acc	208.20	222.00†	- 7.10	
FP Income #	58.54	62.44†	+ 0.26	4.99
-do- Accum #	208.10	221.90	+ 0.90	4.99
FP Jap Smlr Cos	252.10	268.90	- 4.70	
FP Monthly Dist #	75.81	80.86†	+ 0.19	4.99
FP Stlg Deposit	100.90	100.90†		5.30
FP Tokyo	69.90	74.58	- 1.51	...
FP UK Focus	42.80	45.65†	+ 0.31	1.62
FP UK Growth	203.08	216.50	+ 1.90	2.27
-do- Accum	409.20	436.40	+ 3.00	2.27
Stewardship Dist	435.70	464.70†	+ 2.40	1.35
-do- Accum	550.60	587.20	+ 3.80	1.35
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	79.06	84.33†	+ 0.29	4.79

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	191.82	205.12†	+ 2.12	
European	603.93	640.65†	+ 0.16	0.31
European Income #	93.96	99.52	+ 0.38	3.36
Euro Smlr Cos	191.34	204.22†	+ 0.54	0.97
European Value	91.68	97.91†	+ 0.15	0.13
-do- Accum	98.84	105.34	+ 0.17	0.13
Japan Trust	190.66	202.74	- 4.14	
Japan Smlr Cos	190.79	202.08†	- 2.35	
Pacific Smlr Cos	227.82	242.71†	+ 0.55	
North American	319.46	338.83	+ 3.30	
American Smaller	172.13	184.02†	+ 1.00	
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	161.70	170.30	+ 0.30	4.88
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	124.62	130.50†	+ 0.30	1.81
Capital	203.34	212.92	+ 0.43	1.48
Dollar	511.23	535.32†	+ 0.49	
Enterprise Gth	436.80	457.38	+ 2.73	1.02
European	270.18	282.91	- 0.19	0.54
Far East	301.06	315.25†	+ 2.22	0.14
Financial	£10.65	£11.15	+ 3.41	1.80
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.37	27.60	- 0.02	6.82
High Yield #	112.31	117.58†	+ 0.48	4.93
Income & Growth #	165.82	173.64	+ 0.79	3.67
International	204.33	207.73	- 0.38	0.28
Japanese General	177.18	185.53†	- 4.21	
Japan Tech	77.25	80.89	- 1.59	
Nat Resources	76.54	80.15	+ 0.09	0.59
Portfolio	85.67	89.71	+ 0.12	1.15
Special Sits	209.87	219.76	+ 0.51	0.09
UK Emerging Cos	130.36	136.50	+ 0.17	0.86
US Smaller Cos	161.06	168.65	+ 2.02	...
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 880 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	662.00	708.50	+ 2.10	5.35
UK Growth	723.40	772.00	+ 2.70	2.58
High Income #	117.40	125.20†	+ 0.40	5.47
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	625.20	661.80	+ 5.30	0.24
European Gwth	144.40	153.50†	+ 0.50	0.15
Japan Gwth	235.98	250.98	- 5.90	
Japan Smlr Cos	28.41	30.59	- 0.35	...
Asian	62.35	66.45†	+ 0.41	0.09
Sing & Malay Gwth	84.79	90.49	+ 0.44	...
Hong Kong Gwth	158.18	168.70	+ 1.00	1.04
Global Bond	21.39	22.59	+ 0.01	4.87
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	172.20	173.10	+ 0.50	3.21
Value Index	129.50	132.80	+ 0.60	2.12
THE FOOTSIE FUND	88.48	88.61†	+ 0.17	2.90
Index Funds-International				
American Index	287.70	289.10	+ 2.80	0.93
Eurotrack 100	197.10	198.10	+ 0.40	1.47
Japan Index	65.98	66.31	- 1.32	0.11
Tiger Index	188.00	188.90	+ 2.20	0.15
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	49.67	51.71	+ 0.21	1.40
General Funds				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	88.46	94.11	- 2.54	
Minster Trust	67.99	72.34	+ 0.17	1.42
-do- Accum	78.52	83.54	- 0.30	1.42
Millennium Acc	97.00	103.20	...	2.22
N American Gen	249.30	265.20	+ 2.60	...
-do- Accum	288.40	306.90	+ 3.00	
NAm Sm Co Rec	192.20	204.50	+ 2.20	
-do- Accum	196.20	208.80	+ 2.40	
Pacific Basin	252.30	268.50	+ 5.20	0.12
-do- Accum	268.80	286.00	+ 6.70	0.12
Small Cos Rec	527.60	555.40	+ 1.00	1.81
-do- Accum	728.80	767.20	+ 1.90	1.81
UK Eq Gth	167.50	178.20	+ 1.00	1.51
UK Eq Inc	133.00	141.50	+ 2.50	3.79
UK Growth	108.30	115.30	+ 2.00	1.25
-do- Accum	136.00	144.70	+ 2.40	1.85
Worldwide Gth	344.00	366.00	- 3.30	0.38
-do- Accum	508.40	540.90	- 4.90	0.38
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	87.63	93.81	+ 0.80	0.70
General	109.07	117.02†	+ 0.71	2.90
Income	74.22	79.63	+ 0.55	5.80
International	71.16	76.35	- 0.10	0.50
Japan	48.00	51.50	- 1.15	
1st of Inv Trusts	75.30	80.79	+ 0.22	1.10
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Servs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	520.70	550.00	+ 6.60	0.33
-do- Accum	651.80	688.50	+ 8.30	0.33
Amer Recovery	603.30	638.00†	+ 10.50	0.11
-do- Accum	697.70	737.90†	+ 12.60	0.11
Amer Smlr Cos	164.98	174.48	+ 3.50	
-do- Accum	168.40	178.20	+ 3.60	
Australasian	214.70	227.00	+ 3.00	2.07
-do- Accum	269.70	285.20	+ 3.80	2.07
Capital	983.40	1029.90	+ 5.60	2.89
-do- Accum	1174.20	1241.60	+ 6.60	2.89
Charifund	782.00	789.90	+ 3.00	5.77
-do- Accum	4085.80	4126.70	+ 15.80	5.77
Commodity	457.80	484.10	+ 3.00	0.29
-do- Accum	677.00	715.80	+ 5.00	0.29
Compound Gth	1126.10	1190.80	+ 8.00	2.74
-do- Accum	1244.00	1315.50	+ 8.90	2.74
Corporate Bond	25.62	25.72†	+ 0.05	7.40
Dividend	44.49	46.90†	+ 0.10	4.79
-do- Accum	201.20	212.90†	+ 0.70	4.79
Equity Income	332.50	351.60	+ 1.10	5.77
-do- Accum	461.10	487.50	+ 1.50	5.77
Euro & General	620.10	656.80	+ 1.30	0.74
-do- Accum	796.40	842.30	+ 1.70	0.74
Euro Dividend	81.38	86.00	+ 0.40	3.56
-do- Accum	103.40	109.50	+ 0.60	3.56
Euro Smlr Cos	50.60	53.50	+ 0.20	0.50
-do- Accum	50.60	53.50	+ 0.20	0.50
Extra Yield	472.20	499.40	+ 2.30	4.96
-do- Accum	1597.28	1689.20	+ 7.30	4.96
Fund of Inv Tsts	709.80	750.60†	+ 0.10	1.92
-do- Accum	1371.20	1450.00†	+ 0.10	1.92
General	71.20	75.30	+ 0.20	3.77
-do- Accum	209.80	222.10	+ 0.60	3.77
Gilt Income	62.19	62.29†	- 0.24	7.00
-do- Accum	191.31	191.60†	+ 0.74	7.00
Gold	68.00	71.90	+ 0.20	0.35
-do- Accum	81.30	86.00	+ 0.23	0.35
High Income	33.40	35.30†	+ 0.10	4.76

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed	101.00	107.20	+ 0.20	5.18
Income	106.10	112.90	+ 0.40	2.26
Japan Growth	43.51	46.12	- 0.42	
Managed	84.13	89.50	- 0.39	1.96
Money Market	96.43	102.20		3.93
North American	109.30	115.80	+ 0.10	0.39
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	123.50	131.40	+ 0.20	1.34
European Growth	122.60	130.30	- 1.40	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	95.30	101.10	+ 0.10	5.20
Income	104.00	110.60	+ 0.30	2.32
Japan Growth	43.36	45.96	- 0.42	
Managed	80.37	85.52	- 0.37	1.94
Money Market	88.88	94.21	+ 0.01	3.90
North American	98.62	104.60	+ 0.10	0.47
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	122.40	130.20	+ 0.10	1.35
European Growth	120.00	127.20	- 1.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	85.34	90.51	+ 0.18	5.45
Income	100.90	107.30	+ 0.38	2.38
Japan Growth	44.32	46.98	- 0.43	
Managed	83.23	88.65	+ 0.19	1.96
Money Market	80.71	85.55		4.07
North American	110.50	117.10	+ 0.10	0.36
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	470.50	499.70†	+ 7.00	
European Gth Inc	551.70	580.90†	+ 1.50	
-do- Accum	552.30	587.30†	+ 1.50	
Intl Gwth	224.20	238.20†	+ 0.80	
UK Equity Inc	225.60	240.10	+ 0.60	3.81
Do. Accum	307.90	327.70	+ 0.90	3.81
UK Ind Trckr Inc	198.00	211.10	+ 0.70	3.06
-do- Accum	245.00	261.20	+ 0.90	3.06
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	279.30	295.70	+ 2.80	0.78
Japan Tracker	61.85	65.22†	- 1.40	
Asian Tracker	220.90	238.30	+ 1.50	0.15
Mngd Ptnlio Inc	187.70	200.20†	+ 0.30	1.88
Mngd Ptnlio Acc	205.90	219.60†	+ 0.40	1.98
Deposit Inc	100.07	100.07†	+ 0.01	5.34
Europa	254.70	272.60	- 0.60	
Genesis	212.90	230.00†	+ 1.00	2.44
High Income	20.83	22.07	+ 0.03	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 080 993				
Acumen	109.30	111.60	+ 0.40	1.79
Acumen Inc	99.06	101.20	+ 0.40	1.79
Acumen Reserve	95.38	97.35	+ 0.03	7.02
-do- Inc	74.36	75.11	+ 0.02	7.02
American Growth	69.16	70.89	+ 0.29	
Equity Income #	105.80	108.60†	+ 1.00	4.48
European	80.76	82.12	- 0.01	0.50
Smaller Cos	92.64	96.53†	+ 0.29	1.22
W wide Eqty	75.89	77.55	- 0.30	
Global Bond	42.61	43.06†	- 0.09	5.41
UK Growth	116.50	119.60	+ 0.70	1.29
Pacific Growth	118.90	122.30	+ 0.20	0.42
Japan Growth	84.50	86.53	- 1.30	...
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	152.87	162.63	+ 0.94	2.59

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	151.20	160.90†	+ 0.40	1.46
-do- Accum	168.70	179.50	+ 0.50	1.45
Technology	692.18	736.30	+ 11.60	
UK Blue Chip	90.26	96.00	+ 0.27	3.15
-do- Accum	105.70	112.40	+ 0.20	3.15
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4490				
Managed Tst	45.72	47.38	- 0.02	1.65
Cash Haven Inc	101.25	101.75†	+ 0.01	4.63
Cash Haven Acc	119.85	120.41	+ 0.01	4.80
Dist Trust Inc	107.70	111.61	- 0.19	5.56
Dist Trust Acc	122.15	126.58	- 0.22	5.56
Global Growth	105.71	112.46	- 0.05	1.78
Equity Inc	90.99	96.80†	- 0.16	4.56
Equity	899.22	956.63	+ 2.34	2.36
European	269.76	279.56†	+ 0.45	0.82
High Income	94.25	100.27†	- 0.12	5.05
Intl Gth	219.66	233.68	+ 0.02	0.97
Intl Smr Co	94.89	100.95	- 0.08	0.46
Japanese	181.71	188.30	- 4.24	
Nth Amer	240.40	249.20†	+ 1.18	1.31
Pacific Mkts	115.38	119.56	- 0.71	0.59
Premier Inc	48.39	50.37	+ 0.05	6.59
Sm Cos	111.76	118.89†	- 0.26	1.77
Spec Sits	130.77	139.12	- 0.22	2.71
UK Growth	151.71	161.39	- 0.40	2.36
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 487 5965				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	84.72	89.09	- 0.21	3.75
Investment Trust	116.62	122.63	- 0.16	0.61
UK Smaller Cos	105.53	112.02	+ 0.04	1.21
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	343.80	364.60	+ 2.00	3.15
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
Five Arrows Funds				
America (Inc)	670.63	712.31	+ 7.77	0.16
America (Acc)	785.72	834.61	+ 9.10	0.16
Amer Smlr Cos	67.40	65.53	+ 0.19	
Asia	53.06	56.89	+ 0.02	
European	411.96	436.55	+ 0.44	0.37
Japan	199.43	212.06	- 4.86	
Jap Smlr Cos	34.18	36.46	- 0.80	
Major UK Cos	121.50	129.59†	- 0.68	1.66
Smlr UK Cos	411.24	447.97	- 1.35	1.10
UK Equity Inc #	187.28	200.70†	- 0.35	4.37
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	50.01	52.22†	- 0.34	
Cash	48.05	50.05†	+ 0.01	2.84
Emerging Mkt	45.32	47.33†	+ 0.19	
Europe	61.19	63.90†	- 0.07	
Global Fixed Int #	49.47	51.66†	- 0.25	5.31
Japan	36.74	38.37†	- 0.62	
North America	67.79	70.79†	+ 0.18	
UK	66.68	69.65†	+ 0.41	0.46
UK Equity Inc #	63.24	66.00†	- 0.31	3.58
UK Fixed Int #	50.76	53.01†	- 0.08	7.20
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	50.87	52.71	- 0.06	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	223.60	237.90†	+ 0.40	0.26
Whole Venture Inc	90.35	96.12	- 0.25	0.45
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT.				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	456.90	486.20	+ 3.40	2.51
-do- Accum	699.50	746.00	+ 5.20	2.51
UK High Inc	218.60	233.20	+ 1.80	2.66
-do- Accum	339.20	361.80	+ 2.80	2.66
Europe Inc	461.40	492.10	+ 2.30	0.44
Nth Amer Inc	220.40	241.70	+ 2.30	0.01
Global Inc	246.10	262.40	- 0.40	0.13
Global Acc	266.20	283.30	- 0.50	0.13
UK Spec Sits Inc	133.30	142.20	+ 0.80	1.69
South East Asia	221.80	236.60	- 0.40	0.24
Cash Trust Inc	100.20	100.20		5.33
UK Smlr Cos Inc	124.80	133.10	+ 0.70	2.00
-do- Accum	131.10	139.90	+ 0.20	2.00
Intl Bond Inc	90.41	95.99	- 0.30	5.19
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	158.70	167.10	+ 0.80	0.63
Nth American	144.10	151.70	+ 1.80	
Intl Bond & Conv	126.80	133.30†	- 0.10	6.64
Pooled Pension (E)	234.20	251.80†		225.00
Smaller Cos	117.80	124.00†	+ 0.30	0.94
UK General #	168.20	177.00†	+ 1.80	2.08
Far Eastern	87.33	91.93	+ 1.06	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6266				
UK Equity Inc ‡	104.01		+ 0.49	4.96
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.44			4.70
Preferred Income ‡	102.52		- 0.18	5.26
Tai Pan ‡	107.53		+ 0.61	
Aztec ‡	64.76		+ 0.66	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	178.03		- 1.41	
European ‡	164.51		+ 0.34	
Global Bond ‡	86.89		+ 0.05	7.93
Samurai ‡	51.25		- 0.67	
UK Growth ‡	110.76		- 0.06	2.58
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	105.72		- 0.13	2.64
Investment Trust ‡	110.82		- 0.29	1.52
Roll Up ‡	98.37		- 0.03	
Glob Gwth PEP	77.27	82.20	+ 0.09	1.20
Inv Trust PEP	56.93	60.56	- 1.14	2.55
Pref Inc PEP #	105.30	112.00	+ 0.30	5.96
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	430.60	456.60†	- 2.20	
Capital	144.00	153.80	- 0.50	1.33
Cash	101.10	101.10	- 0.01	5.32
European	160.90	170.20†	+ 0.50	0.79
Far Eastern	151.00	159.70	- 0.80	
Growth	169.30	178.10	+ 0.80	1.12
Income #	141.50	149.70	- 1.00	5.01
Magnum	152.20	162.70†	+ 0.60	1.40
Smlr Secs	548.70	580.00	+ 12.50	0.39
Thoroughbred	177.20	189.60	- 0.70	1.29
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Cerdid Prinmco	58.00	61.99	- 0.15	7.00
Ethical	81.74	87.42	+ 0.06	0.82
European Growth	80.75	85.63	+ 0.54	0.44
Income	62.50	66.84†	+ 0.10	3.40

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
Sector Value Inc #	106.10	112.00	+ 0.70	3.68
Sector Value Gwth	107.70	113.40	+ 0.80	2.01
Hy 5 Europe	99.62	104.60†	- 0.70	2.41
Slater Gwth	181.70	191.80	+ 0.80	0.47
New Japan	87.15	91.90	- 1.07	..
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	191.90	204.10	+ 2.40	
Income #	222.67	236.88	+ 1.32	4.35
UK Growth	87.55	93.13	+ 0.56	1.85

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	82.21	85.34†	- 0.17	5.07
Intl Equity Growth	83.79	89.05†	- 0.01	0.67
N Amer Growth	137.35	145.89	+ 1.17	0.73
Special Sits Growth	28.49	30.30	+ 0.20	2.20
UK Growth	469.44	499.40	+ 3.38	2.71
-do- Accum	649.25	689.62	+ 4.67	2.71
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1426.50	1448.20†		2.90
Income #	1041.80	1058.30		4.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	165.30	169.00†		3.58

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Telephone: 0171 416 4160. Fax: 0171 499 3671.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	83.48	88.78	- 0.36	0.45
Ecology	100.08	106.45	- 0.15	0.87
European	204.874	217.94	+ 0.16	0.57
Far Eastern	291.60	310.20	- 1.30	..
UK Special Sits	55.03	58.69	+ 0.28	..
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.50	103.80†	- 0.20	7.17
Euro Pdv Inc	100.50	106.98	+ 0.60	2.75
-do- Accum	100.50	106.90	+ 0.60	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.60	125.10†	+ 0.40	6.47
Global Income	230.60	245.30†	+ 1.70	3.61
High Yield	158.50	168.60	+ 1.40	5.53
-do- Accum	525.40	558.90	+ 4.60	5.53

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Pfolio	180.30	185.70	+ 1.00	2.49
-do- Accum	213.90	220.60	+ 1.30	2.49
UK Sel Pfolio	160.50	165.50†	+ 1.20	2.53
-do- Accum	195.50	201.50†	+ 1.30	2.53
UK 100 Cos	119.50	119.50	+ 0.90	2.82
-do- Accum	121.70	121.70	+ 0.90	2.82
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 642				
Managed Tst	72.49	77.12	- 1.31	3.55
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4648				
Intl Income	82.96	88.07†	+ 0.39	3.48
European	103.80	110.00	- 0.30	0.66

Gilts and equities move higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	414	Allied Domecq†	430½		6.8	13.0
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	547½	.	3.1	16.1
137	67½	Burn Stewart	70		6.1	74.4
855	815	Glenmorangie A†	847½		1.8	23.1
498	411	Grand Met	448½	+ 4	4.5	14.2
493	425	Guinness	454	+ 10½	4.2	14.1
378	315	Highland Distil	338½	- ½	3.1	16.3
803	255½	Matthew Clark	260	+ 1	11.5	12.4
141	91½	Merrydown Wt	107½	...	5.5	14.5
2612½	1375	SA Breweries†	1390½		2.3	

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3959¾	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3712½	+ 40¾	3.3	14.3
746	529	Abbey Nat	742½	+ 6	3.9	13.7
400	315	Allied Irish	392½		4.6	11.3
397½	285	Aus New Z	357½	- 1	5.3	
6197½	3843¾	Bank America	5881¼	- 81¼		
316	227½	Bank Scotland	307	+ 6½	3.0	11.3
1041½	683	Barclays	1006	- 9½	3.5	11.0
528½	413	Bk of Ireland	517½	.	4.0	11.7
482	360	Cater Allen†	381½		9.8	15.1
6493¾	4031¼	Citicorp	6037½	- 75		
392	307½	Close Bros	316		4.0	12.7
1575	1316¾	Commerzbk	1331¼		3.5	
1350	906¼	Dai Ichi Kan Y	906¼	- 12½	0.5	
3412½	2750	Deutsche Bk	2750	- 9¾	2.5	
806½	593¾	Espirito Santo	778¼		4.2	11.3
1507	916½	Fuji Bank Y	916½	- 19¼	0.5	
472	260	Gerrard Nat	271		10.6	11.0
267½	196	Hambros†	222½		4.2	18.8
1329	931	HSBC	1261½	+ 12	3.7	11.9
1296½	930	HSBC HK	1227	+ 10½	3.8	11.6
489½	385	Irish Perm	485½		2.9	13.3
197	143	King Shaxson†	182½		6.2	20.4
465	405	Leopold J†	465		5.2	27.5
431	294½	Lloyds TSB	427½	+ 2	3.5	18.1

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
685	436	Bramner	630	+ 1	2.9	18.0
26½	18	Bridgend Grp	20		1.2	
113	76	Brit Fittings	99½	- 2	4.7	11.4
310	245	Caffyns†	307½		4.7	12.8
194½	152½	Car Group	190½	- 3	2.6	18.6
160	105	Cawdale	110	...	3.9	7.2
107½	72½	Charles Sidney	76½	+ 1½	6.2	10.8
79	54½	Cook (DC)	56	- 1½	5.1	6.5
175	94½	Dag Motors	96½		10.0	6.8
163	125¾	Denmans El	133½		2.5	13.4
434	328	Diploma†	384½		5.0	13.5
467½	328	Electrocomponts†	453½	- ½	1.9	27.5
314	125½	Eurodis Elec	163½	+ 2	3.7	15.8
134½	65	EuroMart	108½	- 1	7.0	10.8
105	76	European Mkt	78½		8.4	8.0
375	217	Evans Halshaw	220	...	9.4	8.6
67	39½	File Indxng	42½		9.7	6.4
338	248	Fwelist Grp	314½	+ 1½	2.5	18.1
33½	16½	Gardiner	31	- 1	3.5	12.4
91	33½	Glenchewton	63		2.1	18.6
97½	70½	Gowrings	82½		4.2	14.0
101	72	Hartlett	79½	+ 4½	9.4	7.4
292	216	Harris (Philip)†	248		4.4	15.1
295½	200½	Headlam	261½	- 5	2.8	21.7
300	132	Holders Tech	151		5.0	14.2
234½	153	ISA Intl	233½	+ 2	1.4	21.3
316	221	Inchcape†	247½	- 2½	4.1	21.2
79	33	Jacks (Wm)	50½		5.0	17.4
260	169	Kwik-Fit	219		3.0	17.6
390	299	Lex Service	313½	- 2	6.1	10.0
155	105	Lookers	106		9.4	6.2
17	10½	Malaya Grp	11½		7.3	12.1
9½	5½	Middlesex	6		1.6	9.2
47	31	Milestates	39		0.8	
565	440	Norbain†	470	- 1	2.1	13.0
349	230	Northamber	296		0.9	8.8
162	108	PCT-D	125		7.7	11.7
331	201½	Pacco	321½	- 1	2.8	15.4
342½	272	Pendragon	342½		3.4	16.6
211	145	Perry Gp	190		5.5	9.7
745	602	Premier Farnell	685	- 1½	2.1	26.6
190	135	Quicks Group	146½		5.5	11.0
315	195	REA	287½	+ 2½	1.7	34.5
3	2	Reece	2½			
54	20	Ronson	27½	+ 2	6.8	9.5

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BRITISH FUNDS

■ HERITAGE

Admiralty Arch, and the history that it embodies, should be opened up to the public

■ THEATRE

Joanne Pearce stars in an absorbing new RSC staging of Ibsen's *Little Eyolf* at the Swan in Stratford

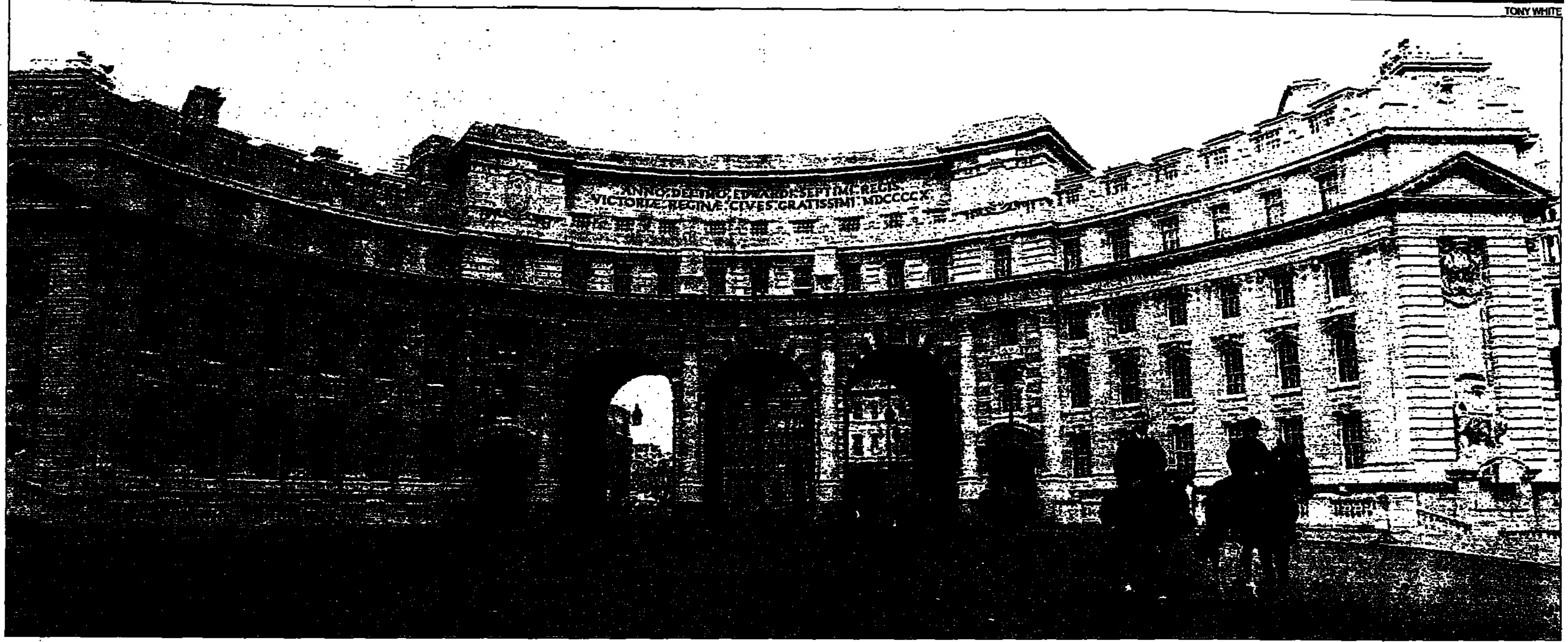
THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC

Music by Haydn and his contemporaries is featured in a fine concert on period instruments

■ TOMORROW

How does Leslie Phillips fare on his debut at the RSC? Read the verdict of Benedict Nightingale



TONY WHITE

Imposing gateway to the heart of London: "Simply removing flimsy partitions would create the most animated views in London. For the price of a coffee and cake, anyone could watch the Household Cavalry trotting up the Mall."

Let the public on board

HERITAGE: Everyone should be able to explore the unique interior of Admiralty Arch, says **Marcus Binney**

Admiralty Arch was on the market little more than hours before it was withdrawn again. The Government, stung by the fury which greeted advertisements for the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich, could not face another row about "selling off the family silver". The Prime Minister has declared firmly that the mighty arch must have a public use. But this can be interpreted in two ways: a public sector use, or use that allows the public into the building.

Public access has to be the key. The archway may have been built principally as offices for the Admiralty, but making the building meet the regulations and Treasury norms for public sector offices has been costed at a cool £20 million. What a waste of the public's dosh.

Exploring the interior today is a depressing experience for one simple reason. Every single window is hung with the heavy duty "bomb blast" net curtains that are standard issue in every government office. Pull them back, and every window offers ravishing views, up the Mall with its magnificent double lines of plane trees, or across to Trafalgar Square. And thanks to the deep concave recession of the façades the view from each window is subtly different.

Admiralty Arch was built to the design of Sir Aston Webb, who had the largest architectural practice of the Edwardian era. His public buildings include the main front of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

Webb won an invited competition to design a grand processional way along the Mall, centred on the newly commissioned Victoria Memorial. His winning tricks were a dramatic semi-circular colonnade facing Buckingham Palace, a huge triumphal arch facing Charing Cross, and three high archways for traffic — like the Second Empire archways through the Louvre in Paris. To the Treasury's delight, Webb abandoned his colonnades for the balustrades we see today, releasing money to reface Buckingham Palace in Portland stone.

Webb impressed the assessors by the ingenious way his receding façades concealed the twist in the road as it passed through the arch. He also pleased the salts of the Admiralty, showing how they could expand their growing empire from their adjoining palaces (where Michael Portillo has his parties) into the arch.

Webb was also told to provide a pair of houses (London's grandest semis) for the First Lord of the Admiralty and the First Sea Lord. There was only one problem. The First Lord was not told of his new house until 1909 when it was nearly complete. He flatly refused to move, asserting that his existing house had been the historic home of the First Lord since the Admiralty had been built. The Cabinet backed him. So the First Sea Lord moved into the grander townhouse. But as it was "too large for his status" the top floor was turned into offices.

Inside, the main features remain: splendid panelling, baroque fireplaces, garlanded ceilings and an astonishing marble-sided cantilevered oval stair that must be the model for the grandiose stair in the National Liberal Club, as it was rebuilt after the war.

The dumbbell plan inevitably contains a great many odd-shaped rooms. It is inconceivable that any office manager would think them other than grossly substandard. But it would be a complete waste of public money to knock out solid Edwardian walls, introducing expensive underfloor cabling.

The solution is simple. The arch should become a large elegant brasserie-style café-restaurant, open all day from breakfast to after-theatre suppers. Simply removing the flimsy partitions would immediately create a room with the most animated views in London. For the price of a coffee and cake, anyone could watch the Household Cavalry trotting up the Mall.

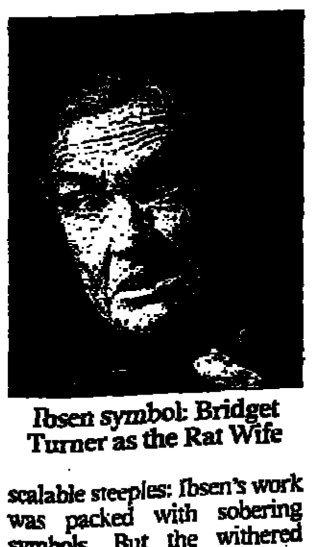
Other rooms beside the arch could be used for banquets and private functions. The rest could become a small townhouse hotel. If the most expensive hotel in London, the Lanesborough, overlooks the snarling traffic around Hyde Park Corner, there must be a premium on rooms in the Arch. That way, the cost of adapting the building to modern regulations would be met by the private sector.

At present there is talk that the Arch may become yet more offices, perhaps of London First, the organisation which is championing the cause of London. But the days of desks and filing cabinets should be put firmly behind us. If Mr Major is embarrassed at the idea of leasing it to the private sector, why doesn't he simply sell it for a hefty consideration to the Crown Commissioners who own the adjoining Carlton House Terrace? The best tenant might even be Buckingham Palace itself. Millions of hungry and thirsty visitors to the Palace must long for an elegant place in the Mall to rest their weary feet.

Marriage of true impediments

Little Eyolf
Swan, Stratford

Isaac Bashevis Singer is said to have fainted dead away when, freshly arrived in New York, he opened the door of his apartment to find a towering black man who grimly told him: "I am the exterminator". Actually, he was not Death, just a man whose job was killing cockroaches. But suppose there had been an antique, black-bonneted figure on the doorstep, who introduced herself as the Rat Wife and offered to rid the house of "any troublesome thing that nibbles and gnaws, creeps and crawls". Panic and superstitious alarm would have been the appropriate responses.



Ibsen symbol: Bridget Turner as the Rat Wife

Onions without centres, wild ducks, millstreams, unscalable steeples: Ibsen's work was packed with sobering symbols. But the withered visitor in *Little Eyolf* is the most daunting of all. She may think she is simply into pest control, but, without knowing it, she is talking of addictive guilts, half-acknowledged hatreds, and the psychological confusions that wreck the human soul. Specifically, she is talking of one of the most troubled marriages that even Ibsen managed to evoke.

Admittedly, Rita and Allmers are not as alienated as the couple at the centre of *John Gabriel Borkman*, which Ibsen wrote just after *Little Eyolf*. They are at least on speaking terms. But they got married for all the wrong reasons. They blame each child, Eyolf, is a cripple. And when Allmers returns from an Ibsenite apotheosis in the mountains saying he means to abandon his writing career to look after Eyolf, Rita's jealous reaction is to wish their son dead. Imagine, then, the recriminations that surface when the boy promptly contrives to get drowned.

Adrian Noble, who directs, abjures the dark, operatic treatment Richard Eyre recently gave *Borkman* at the National. He strips the RSC's Swan stage of almost all the decor Ibsen specified, and asks Joanne Pearce's Rita and Robert Glenister's Allmers to expose themselves and their marriage in the kind of bright light one associates with the severer sort of confrontation therapy. Maybe as a result, they lack something in depth and density, but they give brave, emotionally unembarrassed performances. You cannot doubt her overarching possessiveness, nor his anger at himself for not feeling more.

The play's ending, which reads as if it has been flung together by some sentimental social worker, comes across a lot more tentatively here. Noble knows that marital knots do not magically unravel themselves. Indeed, his *Little Eyolf* combines intelligence with dramatic clarity. It also offers sturdy supporting performances from Derbhle Crotty as Allmers's half-sister and Damian Lewis as her engineer lover.

The latter's name is Borghejm, but he is also called the Roadmaker and is meant to represent escape, hope and the future in the same way that the Rat Wife (Bridget Turner) is meant to warn against life-lies and secrecy. I know which symbol I would rather came knocking at my door.

BENEDICT

Bravura bass, sublime Haydn

Not often does a double bass player step into the limelight (except perhaps in Ronnie Scott's), but in the latest of the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's** concert series at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Chi-Chi Nwanoku was the centre of attention in a concerto by the 18th-century violinist and composer Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf. The piece was written for a Viennese bass player whom Dittersdorf referred to as "the brave" Pichelberger, and courage was undoubtedly one of the qualities required to tackle this showpiece of technical bravura.

Nwanoku gritted her teeth and gave a spirited performance of the Concerto No 2 in E flat; with her bass (a 17th-century Amati) retuned a semitone higher to make the key more feasible and the tone of the instrument brighter. Huge leaps, a striking use of harmonics and chattering passage-work characterised the writing for bass in the outer movements, while the central Adagio worked a more lyrical vein. It was a veritable *tour de force*, which Nwanoku brought off with aplomb despite some initial nervousness.

There was little of real musical value in the Dittersdorf, although the work does give us a fascinating insight into the performance abilities and aesthetic of an earlier age. The rest of the OAE's programme, however, presented works of the highest order: two Haydn symphonies (Nos 26 and 58) from the same period as the concerto (the mid-1760s), and Mozart's Symphony No 41. For the Haydn, Frans Brüggen used a small string section (and no keyboard continuo) that gave the performance an appropriately immediate, chamber-like feel, especially in the extraordinarily powerful D minor symphony (No 26) known as the *Lamentatione*.

Here, as in the more urbane Symphony No 58, Brüggen's meticulous direction brought playing of the finest order from the OAE in a perfect blend of precision and excitement. Simply stunning.

CONCERTS

☐ THE annual Christmas festival promoted by Magenta Music at St John, Smith's Square, is under way with its usual blend of the familiar and the less well-known. Sunday evening's concert fell into the latter category, although Spanish Renaissance polyphony in general has established its corner in the early music world. **Camerata Hispanica**, a recently formed group of young musicians mostly of Spanish origin, is dedicated to the furtherance of our knowledge. On this occasion, the group comprised three members from Catalonia and a Venezuelan soprano. Two, the tenor Lluis Vilamajo and the bass-baritone Pau Bordas, initially trained in Catalonia.

The group brings together two strands of the European early music performance tradition. The quality of the voices and approach to the text is representative of the "Mediterranean" school: more full-bodied, more heart-on-sleeve than, say, the Hilliard Ensemble. However, like their British counterparts, the music is presented basically *a cappella* and with one voice to a part, a performance mode rarely encountered in Spain. The programme they presented was, naturally, a Christmas one, with motets and *villancicos* (a loose equivalent of the English medieval carol) from 16th-century Spain. St John's was really too large a performing space and the acoustic tended to favour the lower voices, but there is no doubt of this group's lively and polished approach.

TESS KNIGHTON

Authentic pioneer spirit

ASMF/Sillito
Queen Elizabeth Hall

ONCE a group of musical pioneers, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields now seems rather an old-fashioned chamber orchestra. Indeed, trading on a reputation established during its glory years, when it spearheaded the Baroque revival of the 1960s and gave refreshingly lean accounts of the Classical repertory, it now lags far behind today's enterprising "period" bands.

Only in one respect is it more "authentic" than most of these "authentic" groups: it often plays without a conductor. Eighteenth-century performances were directed from the keyboard or by the leading violinist, and at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on its latest London outing the Academy was again led by one of its violinist-directors, Kenneth Sillito. We heard four polished performances, but all needed a firmer interpretative hand. At least they were in a good cause: this was the Academy's Christmas concert in aid of London's homeless sounded congenial enough, but there is much in this late masterpiece, an outwardly cheerful but pensive work, that the orchestral playing did not reveal. Andrew Marriner was the agile soloist, who also managed long-breathed, liquid lines in the adagio. A little hooty in the middle register, he brought warm, nutty tone to the low notes so important in this piece. Beethoven's Symphony No 1, too, was given an amiable reading, but without much of the tension that points to the composer's mature style.

Two relative rarities, C.P.E. Bach's Sinfonia in E minor (W178) and Josef Suk's *Meditation of the St Wenceslas Chorale*, added spice to the programme. Inspired by a hymn invoking the Czechs' patron saint rather than the figure of Christmas tradition, the Suk is a sombre work for and fear, in 1914. Modal passages recall Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia*, and this performance captured the music's elegiac mood. The Bach, dating from the year of Mozart's birth, is a work full of vigour and sudden dynamic contrasts. Its spiky first movement brought out the best in the orchestra, which over the years has not lost its familiar, lively and spirited sound.

JOHN ALLISON

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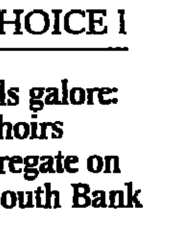
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

[illegible] LSO

■ CHOICE 1

Carols galore: the choirs congregate on the South Bank

VENUE: This weekend, Festival Hall, QEH



■ CHOICE 2

The LSO plays songs from shows by Sondheim and others

VENUE: Tonight and Sunday at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS

■ DANCE

The Royal Ballet presents a stylish revival of Frederick Ashton's delightful *Cinderella*

■ JAZZ

Kenny Wheeler wears his talent modestly in a class demonstration of trumpet playing

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

MUSIC IN THE CITY A hectic musical weekend at the Barbican begins with a concert by the **London Symphony Orchestra** under Martin Yates. Stars from some of the musicals currently playing in the West End join the LSO and *the English Concert Singers to perform* songs from the shows, including *Music of the Night* and *All I Ask of You* from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Send in the Clowns* from *A Little Night Music*, and *Memory* from *Cats*
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm; repeated on Sunday, 7.30pm

STILLE NACHT, HEILIGE NACHT: Join the **Lehar Schrammel Ensemble** for a Christmas celebration with an Austrian flavour in a programme of waltzes and songs performed against a backdrop of Austrian scenes. The ensemble is joined by the Putney High School A Capella choir, semi-finalists in this year's Sainsbury Choir of the Year competition. The programme includes the eponymous carol, as well as music by Schrammel, Strauss and Wanjek.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.45pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Further festivities on the South Bank include a concert by the **Mozart Festival Orchestra**, conducted by Ian Watson. Dressed in 18th-century costumes, the orchestra offers an evening of favourite carols and songs. With Angela Tunstall, soprano, Crispian Steele-Perkins, trumpet, and the Mozart Festival Chorus.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Sunday, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BARNSTAPLE: Anita Harris stars as **Aladdin** in a production that promises comedy, drama, dance, music, fantasy and magic. Directed by **Mike Margolis**.
Queen's, Boutport Street (01271 24242). Opens today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm, 6pm, Christmas Eve, 2.30pm, 6pm. No perfs Christmas Day, January 6 and 7. Until January 11

CARDIFF Moscow City Ballet's Christmas programme features two much-loved ballets: *Swan Lake* (from Sunday to New Year's Eve, except Dec 24-26), and *Cinderella* (from January 2-5). With the National Ballet Orchestra.
St David's Hall, (01222 878444). Mon-Sat, 2.30pm (except Jan 2) and 7.30pm; Sun, 5pm. Until January 5

LEEDS The British soprano **Kathryn Harries** stars in two concerts of French music with **Opera North**. Yves Abel conducts the English Northern Philharmonia in a programme that includes Berlioz's solo cantata, *La Mort de Cléopâtre*, and extracts from *Les Troyens*. Debussy's *Nocturnes* and Chausson's *Poème de l'amour et de la mer* complete the programme.
Grand, 46 New Briggate (0113-245 9351). Today and tomorrow, 7.15pm

LONDON GALLERIES

Alan Cristea: Colour Etching (0171-439 1866) . . **British Museum**: Mysteries of Ancient China, Japanese Arts (0171-636 1555) . . **Camden Arts Centre**: Richard Tuttle: Grey Walls Work (0171-435 2643) . . **Courtauld**: Sir William Chambers: Architect to George III (0171-873 2526) . . **Hayward**: Beyond Reason, Art and Psychosis: Works from the Prinzhorn Collection (0171-928 3144) . . **Lisson**: Rodney Graham (0171-724 2739) . . **National**: Making and Meaning: Rubens's Landscapes (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait**: John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award 1996 (0171-306 0055) . . **Portland**: Twentieth Century Scottish Artists (0171-321 0422)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **ART**: Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in an exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white canvas. Matthew Warchus directs.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**: The Christmas shows at this theatre are among the very best in the country. Laurence Boswell directs this year's, with marionettes and automata staffing the Beast's palace.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Various times, 10.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 7pm. Until February 1

☐ **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**: Tremendous RSC cast, headed by Penelope Wilton, Alec McCowen and David Troughton, in a production by Adrian Noble considered the best in living memory.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **A DOLL'S HOUSE**: No superlatives high enough for Janet McTeer in Anthony Page's first-class production of Ibsen's proto-feminist drama.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

■ **GUYS AND DOLLS**: Richard Eyre revives his famous production of the Frank Loesser musical. Imelda Staunton recreates her role of Miss Adelaide.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Tue, Wed, Thurs, 2pm; Sat 2pm.

☐ **LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR**: Neil Simon's funny account of working among a team of scriptwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

☐ **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**: Jonathan Miller returns to the British theatre after six years to direct an interesting cast headed by Norman Rodway and Angela Thorne as the royal immortals.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until February 1

☐ **NINE**: The Arthur Kopit/Maury Yeston musical based on Fellini's *8½*. Larry Lamb plays the great director; among the women who bewilder him are Clare Burt and Eleanor David.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **PLUNDER**: Griff Rhys Jones and Kevin McNally in merry, though terribly snobbish, Ben Travers farce. With *Kevin McNally and Sara Crowe*.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

◪ **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE**: Subtitled "The Songs of Leiber and Stoller". Hit Broadway compilation show celebrating a successful songwriting team.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ☐ **An Ideal Husband**: Old Vic (0171-928 7616) . . ☐ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . ☐ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

EVITA (PG): Madonna sings with passion, but production overkill plays havoc with Lloyd Webber's rock opera. With Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce. Directed by Alan Parker.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574)

◆ **MATILDA** (PG): Exuberant telling of Roald Dahl's subversive tale about a precocious girl (Mara Wilson) who triumphs over pesky adults. Danny DeVito co-stars and directs.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG (PG): Splendid revival of Jacques Demy's bitter-sweet musical of 1964, gorgeously restored in pastel colours. With Catherine Deneuve.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366)

CURRENT

ACTS OF LOVE (18): Flawed drama boosted by Dennis Hopper's performance as a teacher in the Midwest, carried away by passion. With Amy Irving and Amy Locane. Director, Bruno Barreto.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO** (U): Pleasant new version of the classic tale, mixing humans (Martin Landau, Genevieve Bujold) and animatronics. Director, Steve Barron.
Watermans (0181-568 1176)

◆ **THE FIRST WIVES CLUB** (PG): Broad comedy about vengeful Manhattan wives, with juicy parts for Diane Keaton, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn. Director, Hugh Wilson.
Empire Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

I SHOT ANDY WARHOL (18): Mary Harron's incisive portrait of Valerie Solanas and the Warhol circus, with a wonderful performance from Lili Taylor.
Renoir (0171-837 8402) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **JINGLE ALL THE WAY** (PG): Aggressively American Christmas comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as a dad in search of a prized action toy. Director, Brian Levant.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **101 DALMATIANS** (U): Glenn Close knocks spots off the dogs in the live-action edition of the cartoon classic. With Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson. Director, Stephen Herek.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT** (12): Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew battles the Borgs. Acceptable adventure, if a little too serious. With Brent Spiner, Alice Krige. Director, Jonathan Frakes.
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Charming all the way

The Royal Ballet's contribution to the Christmas dance fest is its *Cinderella*, choreographed by Frederick Ashton in 1948 and performed more than 300 times at Covent Garden. Unlike *The Nutcracker*, which is a product of late 19th-century Russian classicism, *Cinderella* is a homage, looking back to the grand aesthetic which informed the St Petersburg tradition. Ashton's model was Petipa, and Ashton's ballet is every bit worthy of the old master himself.

DANCE

Cinderella
Covent Garden

Seen close on the heels of the Kirov Ballet (which is offering a rather scrappy *Nutcracker* down the road at the Coliseum), the Royal puts paid to any idea that Russians automatically do it better. Wednesday night's *Cinderella* cast, corps de ballet and soloists alike, were all plugged into the sublime classical instinct that should be second nature to everyone at the Kirov, but isn't.

The lucidity of the Covent Garden ensemble in Acts II and III burnished the ornate architecture of Ashton's choreography, making it shimmer gloriously against David Walker's majestic palace setting. There is so much brilliant and beautiful writing in this ballet, and on Wednesday night a meticulously rehearsed Royal showed us how to read it.

DEE CONWAY

"There is so much brilliant and beautiful writing in Ashton's *Cinderella*, and the Royal showed us how to read it"

Miyako Yoshida was making her debut as Cinderella, which must be a dream role for her. She is the kind of dancer who relies on the steps to speak for her, and when the choreography is as articulate as this, Yoshida is in her element.

She started a bit slowly in the kitchen scene, but once she got going there was no stopping the flow of lyrically charged movement. Her Cinderella was radiant, eager and tenderly expressive. Her alert musicality enriched the choreography simply by listening so astutely to the score and being aware of the nuances that are sometimes overlooked in the sweep of Prokofiev's heavy writing. Another Covent Garden debut, that of the Russian conductor Alexander Vedernikov, helped her along, lightening the musical load by taking the score at a clip.

Beside Yoshida stood Bruce Sansom's Prince, supportive, affectionate and genuinely affecting, dancing wonderfully and acting with real ardour. The moment in Act III when he finally unmasked his mystery lady was a snippet of intimate magic that reverberated around the auditorium.

In contrast to the romantic effulgence of the lovers, Ashton gives us the Step-Sisters, the most famous drag act in British ballet. Ashley Page and Iain Webb played them right on the mark, resisting the road to pantomime excess and paying careful attention to detail. They tittered conspiratorially, huffed themselves up with self-importance, and brazenly pursued any handsome young man with the misfortune to cross their path.

DEBRA CRAINE

The best comes last

OPERA

Les fêtes d'Hébé
Barbican

LES Arts Florissants paid a welcome visit to the Barbican on Wednesday to make the case for yet another neglected work of the 18th-century French stage, Jean-Philippe Rameau's opera-ballet *Les fêtes d'Hébé*. It did so in a concert performance that started with some bumpy playing and less than distinguished singing. But Rameau saves the best numbers, indeed some of his most ravishing music, for the later acts, and by the end it was easy to appreciate why this became one of the composer's greatest successes.

The piece was first given in Paris in 1739, placing it early among the 30 or so stage works Rameau composed during the last three decades of his life. He came to the theatre only at the age of 50, with *Hippolyte et Aricie*, the opera to which the then still pejorative label "Baroque" was first applied. But *Les fêtes d'Hébé* is less complex, with an undemanding plot designed only to serve the important elements of music and dance.

Indeed, its subtitle, *Les talents lyriques*, summarises the plot. In the prologue, Hébé, bored with the gods on Mount Olympus, calls on her *attendants to journey to the banks of* the Seine to celebrate the operatic gifts of poetry, music and dance. Each is featured in the scenarios of the three acts that follow, and conjured up in fast-flowing scenes. Once this performance had settled down, William Christie drew light, airy playing from a colourful orchestra that included two buzzing musettes and a galoubet, the troubadour-evoking pipe-and-drum.

The cast may not all have come from the Florissants' first team, but as Sappho and later Iphise the mezzo Sarah Connolly sang with distinction, and among her various roles the soprano Sophie Daneman was best as a sensuous-sounding Naiad. Jean-Paul Fouchécourt, a lively tenor Mercury, and Thierry Félix, bold as the Spartan leader Tyrtaeus, sang with francophone relish of words. There were also stylish performances from the tenor Paul Agnew and mezzo Maryseult Wieczorek. Even, full-bodied singing from the chorus, though, gave the keenest, most consistent delight.

JOHN ALLISON

Bop till you smile

JAZZ

Kenny Wheeler
Vortex, N16

IF Kenny Wheeler finally feels relaxed in the knowledge that he is among this country's most admired resident musicians, he shows little sign of it. Despite being confronted with a packed Vortex whose audience hung on his every note and applauded all his solos, the Toronto-born trumpeter was characteristically self-effacing throughout two hour-long sets during which he led the house band (guitarist John Parricelli, pianist Huw Warren, bassist Steve Watts and drummer Martin France) through a selection of his most accessible compositions.

Wheeler has been shuffling shyly on to British stages now since 1952, when he first arrived in this country as a 22-year-old, and stints with the cream of UK-based jazz composers — John Dankworth, Mike Gibbs — and pioneering freer work with the likes of the late John Stevens, not to mention a string of critically acclaimed recordings, have established him firmly in the front rank of British-based players. But it is not until he puts a trumpet or a flugelhorn to his lips that he shows any sign of such an illustrious pedigree.

On this occasion, after warming both himself and his band up with a spirited version of Harry Warren's *Summer Night*, he concentrated on his own material, which is elegantly lyrical and typically understated. Wheeler imbues everything he plays with a melancholy plangency but occasionally, almost in spite of himself, he fires off a buoyant high-note run which hints at fiercer emotion.

It is this tension that makes Wheeler's music so attractive, but brooding titles such as *Springs Eternal* and — his most famous composition — *Everybody's Song but My Own* tend to reinforce the sombre, contemplative mood. It is therefore important that his fellow band members try to invigorate his music, and this the Vortex quartet did, Huw Warren in particular contributing a number of surprisingly gutsy piano solos.

By the end of the second set, heralded by a spot of confident improvisation, even Wheeler was allowing himself the luxury of an occasional cautious smile.

CHRIS PARKER

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■ POP 1

To hell and back: Peter Green, founder of Fleetwood Mac, returns to the live stage

■ POP 2

At Wembley Tina Turner defies the passing years with a typically high-voltage show

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 3

The upcoming Irish band, *Picture House*, are a touch too saccharine on *Shine Box*

■ POP 4

Hardcore rap, spiced with a modicum of wit, is supplied on Redman's latest, *Muddy Waters*

You could say he's a man of the world

And now for the good news — after years in the twilight zone, Peter Green is back, and playing that sweet blues guitar again. **Nigel Williamson** reports

We live in the era of the comeback, but few have been more emotional than the return of Peter Green, the founder of Fleetwood Mac. Once one of the most fêted guitarists in British rock, Green became the ultimate acid casualty, and spent time over a period of years in mental hospitals and clinics undergoing electro-convulsive therapy. He gave away much of his money and slept rough. His wildly unpredictable behaviour was splashed across the tabloid press and he acknowledges that his illness was brought on by hallucinogenic drugs which his delicate mental equilibrium could not handle.

Today Green is 50, and lives in semi-rural Surrey with caring friends who have helped him inch his way back towards normality. His behaviour is no longer frightening, although he remains endearingly eccentric. Last summer he began a tentative comeback with a festival appearance in Guildford and a few low-key dates in Germany. Now he is embarking on a major tour of Britain for the first time in nearly two decades.

The first thing you notice on meeting Green is the delicacy of his handshake. "I have to look after my fingers because I'm supposed to play a bit," says the man who B.B. King once described as the only white guitarist — Clapton included — who sent shivers up his spine.

The modesty is genuine. He complains that promoters insist on billing "the legendary Peter Green" above his band, the Splinter Group, and he looks forward to renewed success so that his name can be dropped. "That's what happened before. It was originally called Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac — but when we made it big my name disappeared."

And they were big. By 1969, after a string of hits such as *Black Magic Woman* and *Man of the World*, Fleetwood Mac were voted Britain's best band by readers of *New Musical Express*. But by May the following year it was not only Green's name which had disappeared. "It was a freedom thing. I wanted to go and live on a commune in Germany. In the end I never did, but I had to get away. Acid had a lot to do with it."

The drugs tipped Green over the edge, into what was eventually diagnosed as schizophrenia. He stopped making music, gave his guitars away (many of his most treasured possessions ended up in an Oxfam shop) and went into a steep and rapid decline. He was eventually committed to hospital, but today tells the harrowing story dispassionately. "I was throwing things around and smashng things up. I smashed the car windscreen. The police took me to the station and asked me if I wanted to go to hospital. I said yes because I didn't feel safe going back anywhere else."

What followed was a nightmare. "They gave me tranquillisers and I didn't really know much about it. It was a struggle just to stay awake. You don't know what you are doing. You don't feel alive."

Michelle Reynolds, in whose house Green now lives, says: "Sometimes he would stand in the garden with me for hours and not say a word. The hospital had him on 17 pills a day. One day he decided to stop. We told him to scale down slowly, but he decided to stop them altogether. That was an incredibly strong thing to do."

Green knows that he will never be what most people would describe as completely normal. "I still hear voices in my head," he says. "It is only one voice, a woman I met in the hospital. There were some scary people there and she is pretty heavy, but I haven't heard her for a bit."

> ‘He was on 17 pills a day. One day he decided to stop’

When he made it back from the brink, he started to play the guitar for the first time in years. "It hurt my fingers at first and I am still relearning," Green says. "What I have discovered is simplicity. Back to basics. I used to worry and make things very complicated. Now I keep it simple."

The next step was a band. Among others, the veteran session drummer Cozy Powell and guitarist Nigel Watson, Reynolds's brother, were enlisted. Now, Green seems to be as contented as a man who has been to hell and back can be. He is affable and clearly enjoys playing again. "It isn't work," he says. "Work and music don't mix. It has to be pleasure or else I can't do it."

The man who once horrified his business managers by giving away much of his fortune says that today he has no idea what he is worth: the royalties are still rolling in but he leaves others to take care of the finances. "I'm told that I have enough and I have started collecting guitars," he says. "If I want a new one I can go out and buy it and if I want to buy a new car I can."

Sadly, he has not yet resumed his songwriting — "I don't feel I have anything I need to say in a song" — and he is also ambivalent about the handful of his classics which the new band performs. "We do *Albatross*, *Black Magic Woman* and *Green Manilishi*, but I only play the rhythm on *Albatross*," he says. I don't want it to be Fleetwood Mac again."

His natural diffidence means that Green finds it hard to cope with being treated as a rock legend. "So far it has been OK but I haven't really been back long enough to say."

There will be a live album from the new tour, "mostly blues stuff I enjoy doing, things like *Goin' Down* and a couple of Robert Johnson songs". But Green then resurrects a 1960s chestnut, much debated in student union bars of the time. "White men can't really play the blues," he says adamantly. When pressed, he concedes that Clapton "doesn't do badly", but seems incredulous that his own work should be rated alongside the great black American guitarists.

Finally, given what he has been through, would he turn back the clock? "There would be no point," he says. "I'd only do the same things all over again."

● *Peter Green and the Splinter Group play the Shepherds Bush Empire on Sunday*

MARTIN BEDDALL

"White men can't really play the blues," says Peter Green, a legendary exception to his own rule

ALAN WELLER

Tina Turner: continuing to defy the passage of time

Icon for all tastes

Tina Turner
Wembley Arena

THE dresses grow shorter as the stilettos get higher as she grows older. In another three years she will qualify for the free bus pass but Tina Turner continues to defy the passage of time, scornful critics and all known logic.

She appeals to several different audiences: mainstream rockers, the old soul crowd and those drawn by the appeal of the feminist icon — the woman who 20 years ago walked out on an abusive marriage, deep in debt and living on food stamps, who came back from rock bottom to scale the peaks and prove that sisters can do it for themselves.

Thus it is no surprise that she can still sell out Wembley Arena for three successive nights. She came on stage blowing kisses and screeching like an overexcited teenager, and at 57 she is blessed with more energy than many half her age. She went straight into *River Deep, Mountain High* while the huge screen behind her showed footage of her belting out the song on *Ready Steady Go!* or some such show 30 years ago. Amazingly, she looks better today than she did then, and whether it is HRT, cosmetic surgery or some secret magic elixir hardly matters.

Yet she doesn't dance quite as frenetically as of old and there was a major shock in store. At one point a high stool appeared and she *sat down* through four entire songs. Musically this was the most satisfying segment of the show. Her voice does not have the depth of Aretha Franklin's, but there is a fine, gritty blues power when she sings such soul classics as *Let's Stay Together* and *I Can't Stand the Rain*, and the voice is at its best when she stills her flailing body.

The rest was the familiar, stomping, storming formula as she ran through 20 songs, old and new. Encouragingly much of the material on the new album *Wildest Dreams* is as strong as anything she has recorded since the early 1980s. A rousing finale gave us *Addicted to Love*, *Simply the Best* and *What's Love Got To Do With It*. She will probably sound even better by the time she gets that bus pass.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Literate, but bad at numbers

REDMAN
Muddy Waters
(Def Jam/Mercury 533 470)
£15.49

RAP has become such an integral part of pop this year that you hardly notice it as such among the catchy choruses and upbeat messages of songs by the Fugees or Spice Girls. But the hardcore stuff still has a somewhat jarring effect on ears not tuned in to the tongue-twisting jargon and splenetic aggression of its more macho protagonists.

Although New York rapper Redman remains stuck in the second division, he is wittier than many. His key preoccupation, however, is with the apparently limitless wonders of smoking dope, a theme which acts like magnetic north on the compass guiding him through *Muddy Waters*. On tracks such as *Whateva Man*, *Smoke Buddah* and *Rollin'* (which recalls the old *Rawhide* theme), what he says as man's right to toke the weed is vigorously upheld. Small wonder, perhaps, that the numbering of the titles on the cover has got rather muddled, with the majority failing to correspond to the actual tracks on the CD.

PICTURE HOUSE
Shine Box
(KOCH International 33611)
£14.49

THE much-fancied but as yet little-heard group Picture House has been talked up as an Irish version of Crowded House. And on the surface the 12 songs on their debut, *Shine Box*, lend some weight to the suggestion. But in the slippery world of "quality adult pop" it is a thin line between the artful statements of Neil Finn and the bland tunesmithery of, say, Phil Collins.

The fact that singer Dave Browne's voice sounds eerily like that of Collins on tracks such as *Worldwide TV* and *I Know Better Now* is not especially helpful to their case.

ALBUMS

More damaging is the saccharine refrain of *Don't Believe Me* and the twee lyric of *Do I Believe You*. Even when they strive to make a more thoughtful point, as in the Ray Davies-influenced *Fan Club*, the effect tends to be rather less clever than intended.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Club Mix 97
(Polygram TV 553 201; two discs)
£15.99

TIME was when these dance compilations were peopled entirely by acts that only specialists had heard of. But as the dance scene continues its march towards mainstream acceptance, it is beginning to throw up names and numbers that actually mean something to the rest of us.

You could not ask for a better start than the Prodigy's recent chart-topper *Breathe*, and no one could call artists such as Underworld, the Shamen and Dina Carroll one-hit wonders. The signs are that dance is going to be *the* sound of the coming year, which would make *Club Mix 97* an especially timely collection but for the fact that these tracks were all released in 1996 or earlier.

STINA NORDENSTAM
Dynamite
(East West 0630-15605)
£15.49

THE photograph on the back of *Dynamite* makes her look like the villain in a Stephen King story, and Swedish singer Stina Nordenstam does little to dispel the impression on her moody and frequently unsettling third album. Plectrums scrape guitar strings like chalk drawn across a blackboard on *Under Your Command* while violins and cellos add a quaintly baroque touch to the title track.

But it is Nordenstam's voice — a sound like icicles tinkling in the first cold breeze of dawn — that grips the attention as she half-sings, half-whispers her English lyrics in a bizarrely lilting, Scandinavian accent that makes Björk's efforts sound like received pronunciation.

"Under your command/Did I not do well?/Was not my record fine?," she asks like a child offering a pale, pretty but utterly inscrutable picture for approval. Of course your record is fine, sweetheart, but an appearance on *Top of the Pops* could be a while in coming.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

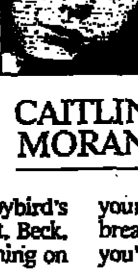
1	**Spice**	Spice Girls (Virgin)
2	***Take Two***	***Robson & Jerome*** (RCA)
3	**Blue is the Colour**	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
4	**Falling Into You**	Celine Dion (Epic)
5	**Greatest Hits**	Simply Red (East West)
6	**The Score**	Fugees (Columbia)
7	**A Different Beat**	Boyzone (Polydor)
8	**Travelling Without Moving**	Jamiroquai (Sony S²)
9	**Older**	George Michael (Virgin)
10	**Crocodile Shoes II**	Jimmy Nail (East West)

Copyright CIN

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from The Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

From early morning to late at night, it's been a great year for pop-pickers

Red-letter day



CAITLIN MORAN

How best to sum up a whole year's worth of music in a few hundred words? I know — compress the glories of 1996 into a hypothetical day of ear-frazzling record joy!

We start at sunrise, 8am, and in need of the jangly pop bliss of the Bluetones' *Expecting to Fly*, with its Byrdsian harmonies and witty insouciance. Similar breeziness comes from Dodgy's Glastonbury-on-vinyl *Free Peace Sweet* and Suede's zestful *Coming Up*. Now we're up to lunch. What better way to speed the digestion of a crisp sandwich and a bag of fun-sized Crunchie bars than Gabrielle's astonishingly under-rated *Gabrielle*. OK, she didn't spend that long on the title; but every other detail is as meticulous as the vision is sweeping. The songs that weren't released as singles are even better than the ones that were.

The afternoon and early evening mean that things can get a little faster, and a little darker. Babybird's *Ugly Beautiful* has the requisite amount of pop shimmer, but the surface breaks frequently into a world of lop-sided beats and fractured loops. Babybird's American counterpart, Beck, did much the same thing on his *Odelay*, but more twisted and feverish.

Things get darker, stickier and more frantic on Strangelove's *Love and Other Demons*. Full of gothic grandeur, elegant shivers and almost incoherent rage, *Love* is the kind of album you'd expect a former lover to slip through your letter box, along with a severed finger and a black rose.

As it's around 9pm by now, it's suitably scary outside for the Prodigy's single, *Firestarter* to crush your spine with a deluge of break-beats. Then, when you've got back from the corner shop with your fags and beans, stick the Fugees' *The Score* on and spend a velveteen hour smoking your fag and wondering what a fugee-la is.

It's midnight now, and who better to help you through it than the Aloof, and a trio with more comedowns than a charity parachutist. *The Sinking* is the second finest of all the fine records of 1996 — while being breathlessly modern and sleek, with glossy samples and thunderous loops, it also seems suspended and out of time.

As it's past 1am now, it's time to play the greatest album of 1996. So the Divine Comedy's *Casanova* returns to the stereo it has roosted on all this year. Thrill again to the way *All Through the Long and Sleepless Night* paces the same small, frustrated circle. Feel your eyes fill with tears as *Songs of Love* — a song as beautiful, delicate and whole as a really wonderful pie — turns the theme music from *Father Ted* into the greatest reason for living. Jump up and down to *Something for the Weekend* and *Becoming Like Alfie*.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a £17,200 Toyota Picnic FFV

The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater has been designed to make travelling with children a more comfortable experience.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading psychologist to investigate family travel. The report identified that although it may not be possible to change children's behaviour, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful journeys.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat belts, giving children their own space to minimise the risk of irritation. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations and a power outlet in the rear — essential for the children's personal stereo. Safety features include dual air bags, side impact beams, crumple zones and impact energy absorbing body frame structure.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the Toyota Picnic collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing in *The Times*. Token six appears below. Send them with the completed entry form, which will be published again tomorrow along with the terms and conditions, to: *The Times*/Toyota Picnic Competition, Ashentree Court, London EC88 8NG. Closing date for entries is first post Friday January 17, 1997.

THE TIMES
TOYOTA
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CHANGING TIMES

صكا غير الاجل

Court of Appeal

Whether building work is construction or alteration

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Marchday Holdings Ltd

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment December 11]

Work carried out on an existing building could amount to more than its conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement so as to be zero-rated under the Value Added Tax Act 1983.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment by a majority, Lord Justice Ward dissenting, dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from the dismissal by Mr Justice Laws ([1995] STC 898) of their appeal against a decision of a VAT tribunal in favour of Marchday Holdings Ltd.

Mr Nigel Pleming, QC, for the commissioners; Mr Roderick Cordara, QC, and Miss Perdita Cargill-Thompson for Marchday.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the tribunal had allowed the company's appeal against a decision of the commissioners regarding the treatment for value-added tax purposes of a construction project carried out by the company at 44-52 Banner Street, City of London.

The question at issue concerned the entitlement of the company to imput tax credit which depended on whether the supply to which it was attributable, namely, the supply of a major interest in, or in any part of the building, was zero-rated under item 1 of group 8 of Schedule 5 to the 1983 Act.

That turned on whether the company was a "person constructing a building" within item 1 or whether the case fell within the exclusion in note 1(A) to item 1. The commissioners held that it fell within the exclusion and was therefore standard-rated, the tribunal that it did not fall within the exclusion and was zero-rated.

Where a supply was zero-rated within section 16 of the 1983 Act the consequences, by section 16(1), were that no tax would be charged on the supply, but in all other respects it would be treated as a taxable supply. The result was that the taxpayer would be entitled to credit in respect of input tax upon supplies made to him in connection with zero-rated supplies made by him.

Section 16(2) provides: "A supply of goods or services is zero-rated by virtue of this subsection if the goods or services are of a description for the time being specified in Schedule 5 to this Act or the supply is of a description for the time being so specified."

The relevant part of Schedule 5 was group 8, the material items of which were:

"1 The granting by a person constructing a building of a major interest in, or in any part of, the building...

"2 The supply in the course of the construction or demolition of any building ... of any services..."

By note (1A) to those items "Any reference in item 2 ... to the construction of any building ... does not include a reference to (a) the conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement of any existing building ... (b) any extension or annexation to an existing building which provides for internal access to the existing building ... and the reference in item 1 to a person constructing a building shall be construed accordingly."

The critical question the tribunal had to answer was whether the work carried out at the site amounted to "the conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement of an existing building" within note (1A).

There was an existing building before the company commenced any work. However, the appearance of the building's facade was wholly different from what it was before any works were started.

The tribunal said: "The question which we must ask ourselves is whether the work done ... amounted to the conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement of the existing building ... or whether the end result is a new building."

It was Mr Pleming's submission that the tribunal fell into error in considering whether the end result was a new building. The sole question, he contended, was whether there had been a conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement of the building that existed before any work was done.

The judge rejected that submission. His Lordship agreed with the judge. Mr Pleming's construction did not give any or sufficient weight to the word "existing".

Mr Cordara was correct in submitting that the reference in note (1A)(b) to existing building supported the conclusion that what had still to be there after the conversion, alteration or enlargement was something that as a *matter of common sense* had to be described as the existing building.

A reasonable man who was fully informed as to the work carried out should be able to say whether or not the old building had been altered. That was a jury question and was very much a question of fact, degree and impression.

Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

LORD JUSTICE WARD, dissenting, said that nowhere did the tribunal ask the question which was the prerequisite for treating the supplies as zero-rated: Was the case truly one of the construction of any building?

The answer was in *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Viva Gas Appliances Ltd* ([1983] STC 819, 823), where Lord Diplock had said: "'construction' ... means erecting the building as a whole and 'demolition' means destroying it as a whole, so 'alteration' is left to cover all the works to the fabric of the building which fall short of complete erection or complete demolition."

If fact and degree determined "construction" why then should it not also determine "demolition"? That would cause havoc in the building industry.

When the home owner wished to have a grand large drawing room in place of his small front room and his back parlour, was that a work of conversion of the existing building?

To his Lordship's mind, the meaning of Schedule 5 was clear and simple. If there was a construction of a whole building where no building was in existence when the work started, or if the demolition was of the entire building, then the supply was almost inevitably standard-rated because, unless it was de minimis, the work would inevitably fall within the description of conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Mainprice & Co.

Law Report December 20 1996

Queen's Bench Division

EC principles do not apply to domestic law

Regina v Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and Another, Ex parte First City Trading and Others

Before Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment November 29]

The fundamental principles of European Community law as formulated by the European Court of Justice, such as equal treatment and non-discrimination, had no application to an action or a decision taken by a member state *under domestic law unless and to* the extent that the decision was taken in order to implement powers or duties conferred or imposed by Community law.

Accordingly, those principles did not apply to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food's beef stocks transfer scheme which gave effect to the Slaughtering Industry (Emergency Aid) Scheme 1996 and which, although designed to provide financial aid in response to the European Commission's decision 96/239/EC of March 27, 1996 (OJ 1996 L78/47) prohibiting the export of beef slaughtered in the United Kingdom, was not devised in order to implement Community law.

Mr Justice Laws, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held, in a reserved judgment given in Leeds, dismissing an application for judicial review by frozen meat exporters, First City Trading Ltd, Meat Marketing Services (UK) Ltd, Meatal Supplies (Wholesale Meats) Ltd, Carrex August Ltd, Weddel Swift Ltd and Swallow Foods International, against the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce (IBAP), in respect of the beef stocks transfer scheme, which provided financial aid to meat exporters with slaughtering and cutting facilities in response to the Commission decision.

The applicants challenged the legality of the scheme on the ground that it discriminated unfairly and without any objective justification in favour of meat exporters with their own slaughtering and cutting-up facilities to the detriment of exporters such as the applicants without such facilities; and that the scheme was thus in breach of the fundamental principle of Community law, namely, the principle of equal treatment or non-discrimination.

Mr Nicholas Green for the applicants; Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for MAFF and IBAP.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that the general or fundamental principle of European Community law undoubtedly included the principle of equal treatment, or non-discrimination, requiring decision-makers to treat like cases alike unless there existed an objective justification to discriminate.

In deciding whether the Community rule applied to the scheme, his Lordship had first to consider what was the correct test by which to resolve the question.

Mr Green relied on the European Court of Justice decision in Case C-92/92 *Phil Collins v Imtrat Handelsgesellschaft mbH* ([1993] 3 CMLR 773) where the court held that the German national law of copyright fell within the scope of the application of article 7(1) of the EC Treaty which prohibited discrimination on the ground of nationality.

Mr Green also relied on *R v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Hamble Fisheries* ([1995] 2 All ER 714) for the proposition that where a national measure operated in a Community context, the measure's legality was subject to the fundamental principles of Community law; and that the test for the application of article 7(1) was the same as that for the general principles of Community law expounded by the European Court.

He further submitted that the present case was in any event governed by article 40(3) of the EC Treaty which provided:

"The common organisation [of agricultural markets] ... shall exclude any discrimination between producers or consumers within the Community."

Mr Parker submitted that the general principles of Community law applied only where the decision or the act complained of was taken or done in the exercise of a power, or the fulfilment of a duty imposed by Community law: a narrower test than the test for the application of the Treaty provisions themselves: see Cases 201 and 202/85 *Klensch v Secretaire d'Etat a l'Agriculture at la Viticulture* ([1986] ECR 3477).

In Case C-2/92 *R v MAFF, Ex parte Bostock* (*The Times* May 11, 1994; [1994] ECR I-955), his Lordship did not understand the court to imply any proposition of principle wider than that the protection of fundamental Community rights bound member states when they implemented Community law.

If the fundamental principles of Community law enjoyed as wide a scope as did the article 7 prohibition against discrimination on the ground of nationality, they ought to apply to the scheme. Did the fundamental principles have a narrower reach?

Those fundamental principles, including proprtionality and legitimate expectation, were not provided for on the face of the EC Treaty. They had been developed by the European Court out of the administrative law of the member states and were part of the common law of the Community.

It was by no means self-evident that their contextual scope had to be the same as that of the Treaty provisions relating to discrimination or equal treatment, which were statute law taking effect according to their express terms.

There was a critical distinction to be drawn between the following situations.

On the one hand a member state might take a purely domestic measure solely by virtue of its domestic law which was neither required of it nor permitted to it by virtue of Community Treaty provisions. Even so, it might affect the operation of the common market and accordingly be held to be "within the scope of application of the Treaty" as in *Phil Collins*.

That was by no means the same thing as its being done under powers or duties conferred or imposed by Community law.

On the other hand a Community institution or member state might take measures which it was authorised or obliged to take by force of the law of the Community.

The second situation primarily included measures which Community law required, such as, for example, law made to give effect to a Directive, or an act done or decision taken by a member state in reliance on a derogation or permission granted by Community law.

In the first situation, the measure was in no sense a function of the law of Europe, although its legality might be constrained by it. In the second, the measure was necessarily a creature of the law of Europe.

Treaty law was in the shape of a command and might intrude into areas previously free of any legal controls, because of the sovereign force of the legislation.

But it was to be sharply distinguished from law made by a court of limited jurisdiction, such as the European Court. The legitimacy of that law depended upon its being elaborated by the court within the confines of the power with which it was already endowed. Its writ could not run where it could not run before.

The European Court had no inherent jurisdiction. Its authority derived solely from the Treaties and although its decisions were as a matter of English law supreme, its supremacy ran only within its appointed limits.

The power of the European Court to apply principles of public law which it had itself evolved could not be deployed in a case where the measure in question, taken by a member state, was not a function of Community law at all. To do so would be to condition or moderate the internal law of the member state without being authorised by the Treaty.

Where action was taken, albeit *under domestic law*, which fell within the scope of the Treaty's application, then of course the court had the power and the duty to require that the Treaty be adhered to; but no more.

Precisely because the fundamental principles elaborated by the European Court were not vouchsafed by the Treaty, there was no legal space for their application to any measure or decision taken otherwise than in pursuance of Treaty rights and obligations.

It followed that in the first situation described there was no question of the application of the Community's internal fundamental principles.

The position was altogether different where a measure was adopted pursuant to Community law; that was the second situation. Then the internal law of the European Court applied. Decisions of the member states were subject to the Community's internal law when and to the extent that they were taken so as to implement Community law, or necessarily had to rely on it.

If the doctrine of equal treatment was to be imported into the present case, Mr Green had to satisfy his Lordship that the scheme constituted a measure taken pursuant to Community law: either as implementing a Community provision, or because in promulgating it the Government would have been in breach of Community law but for a permission or derogation granted by the Community legislation. He had to show that it fell within the second situation.

The scheme was of course occasioned by the Commission decision and its details made reference to aspects of Community law. But that did not take it out of the first situation into the second. Nor did the fact that it was administered by the IBAP.

The scheme was neither required by Community law, nor did the Government have to rely upon any Community permission in order to implement it. Nor did it fall within article 40(3) of the EC Treaty. It was no part of "the common organisation" of agricultural markets.

It followed that Mr Green could not rely on the general principle of equal treatment, whether through the medium of article 40(3) or otherwise.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

VAT zero-rating for charity

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Royal Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce

Before Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment November 29]

Goods or services supplied to a charity to produce a poster promoting the aims of the charity were zero-rated for value-added tax only if supplied in connection with the publication of the advertisement and not just in connection with its preparation.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so stated in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise against a decision of the VAT tribunal of March 11, 1996 to allow an appeal by the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce against an assessment that tax was payable at the standard rate on certain posters.

The society was a charity registered for VAT as part of a group registration.

Part of the group dealt with the production and distribution of the relevant posters. Another company in the group did the printing. The design was done outside the group and the posters finished off outside the group.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC for the commissioners; Mr Andrew Hitchmough for the RSA.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the decision would affect other charities and the revenue implications were considerable. The appeal turned on the true construction of item 8 of group 15 of *Schedule 8 to the Value Added Tax* Act 1994.

Group 15 conferred zero-rating on certain supplies to charities. Item 8 was in the following terms: "The supply to a charity, for the purposes of raising money for ... the charity of (b) the publication of an advertisement in any newspaper ... poster or similar publication; or (c) any goods or services in connection with the preparation of an advertisement within (b) above."

The issue on appeal was the meaning of (c). On assessing the legislative history of the provision his Lordship was satisfied that the purpose of item 8 was to assist charities to acquire the services of publication of advertisements from a third-party supplier. It was not to help promote in-house advertising.

Item 8(c) zero-rated goods or services supplied in connection with the publication of an advertisement qualifying under (b) *and not just with its preparation.* The poster in the present case did not fall within item 8(c) and accordingly did attract VAT at the standard rate.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Band Hatton, Coventry.

Scots Law Report December 20 1996 Court of Session

Over-implementation of EC scheme allowed

Scottish Premier Meat Ltd v Secretary of State for Scotland

Before Lord Coulsfield

[Judgment October 14]

Although the EC Commission regulation laying down a scheme for the slaughter of British cattle more than 30 months old because of the BSE disease required merely that when such animals were being slaughtered no cattle intended for human or animal consumption should be present in the slaughterhouse, it could not be said at the interim remedies stage that it was plainly ultra vires of the Crown to go further and exclude from the scheme all slaughterhouses which undertook any slaughtering of animals for human or animal consumption.

Lord Coulsfield, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, refusing a motion by Scottish Premier Meat Ltd for interim orders in a petition brought by the company for judicial review of a decision of the secretary of state in respect of the slaughter scheme.

Article 1.2 of EC Commission Regulation No 716/96 of April 19, 1996 (OJ 1996 L99/14) provided that certain cattle aged more than 30 months "shall be killed in specially designated slaughterhouses".

Article 1.3 provides, inter alia:

"The slaughterhouses referred to in paragraph 2 shall be organised and operated in such a way as to ensure that:

"No bovine animals, the product from the slaughter of which is intended for human or animal consumption, is present in the slaughterhouse when animals are being slaughtered under this scheme.

"Where it is necessary for bovine animals to be slaughtered under the scheme to be held in lairage, they shall be kept separate from bovine animals which it is intended to slaughter for human or animal consumption, and

"Where it is necessary for products derived from animals slaughtered under this scheme to be stored, such storage shall be separate from any storage facility used for meat or other products destined for human or animal consumption."

Mr Matthew Clarke, QC and Mr Stuart Nicoll for the petitioner; Mr Philip Brodie, QC and Mr Eric Brown for the secretary of state.

LORD COULSFIELD said that the secretary of state had made a scheme of rules relative to the slaughter of cattle over 30 months of age with a view to meeting concerns arising from BSE.

The petitioners owned slaughterhouses for the slaughter of cattle and sheep. They had been made subject of a requirement imposed by the secretary of state that slaughterhouses which were to participate in the slaughter of cattle under the scheme should not also undertake the slaughter of animals for human consumption.

The petitioners submitted that where a regulation bore, expressly or impliedly, to confer benefits on classes of persons, and a member state of the EC was directed to *carry out technical and administrative functions* in implementing the policy and the letter of the regulation, the member state had no power or discretion to restrict the class of persons embraced by the regulation, whether or not there might be any good reason for such restriction: see *R v Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Ex parte National Farmers' Union* ([1995] 3 CMLR 116); Case 148/78 *Publico Ministerio v Ratti* ([1979] ECR 1629).

In the present case the objective of the regulation, namely, the stabilising of the beef market, embraced the interest of all those concerned therein, whether as producers or as providers of services.

The regulation had specifically defined the class of abattoirs entitled to be considered for inclusion in the scheme and had laid down in precise terms the conditions with which they had to comply. The effect of what was now being done was to exclude the petitioners from participation in the scheme unless they undertook not to slaughter animals for human consumption.

That amounted to amendment of, or addition to the precise and definite requirements of article 1.3. The Government had only a policing role in relation to the application of the regulation and had no competence to amend it.

His Lordship considered that the objective of the regulation was to achieve the stabilisation of the beef market in the UK by taking the steps perceived to be necessary to meet public concern about the safety of beef and beef products.

That appeared very clearly from the preamble and, in his Lordship's view, article 1.3 plainly carried that forward into the regulation itself. It followed that the regulation authorised, subject to the usual tests of rationality and proportionality, the taking of all steps seen to be necessary to achieve total separation between scheme animals and their products and animals for human consumption and their products.

The objective of article 1.3 was to require steps to be taken to ensure that there was separation between scheme animals and animals or products destined for human consumption.

There was nothing in the regulation to indicate that it had been intended to confer any right on the operators of slaughterhouses. It was true that in a broad sense the operators of slaughterhouses fell within the community dependent upon the market for meat and meat products, and that it was emphatically within their interests that the crisis should be solved.

There was, however, nothing to indicate that the definition of the requirement to be achieved by article 1.3 was to be construed as conferring any rights on any slaughterhouses or class of slaughterhouse.

Article 1.3 set out the objective that was to be achieved but it was not concerned, at all, to define the means by which it was to be achieved. In those circumstances, his Lordship rejected the petitioner's argument that it was plain that the respondent had acted ultra vires.

Law agents: Paull & Williamsons; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Agreement to appoint arbiter

Dew Group Ltd v Costain Building and Civil Engineering Ltd

Before Lord Weir

[Judgment November 8]

Where a contractor and subcontractor had agreed to approach a named person to act as arbiter but the subcontractor had subsequently suggested finding an alternative arbiter because the named person was very busy, the parties had nevertheless "agreed an arbitrator" for the purposes of clause 18(3) of the I.C.E. Conditions of Contract, and the contractor could not prevent the arbitration from proceeding by relying on the provisions in clause 18(3) concerning litigation under the main contract.

Loud Weir, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting decree in favour of Dew Group Ltd in an action brought by them against Costain Building and Civil Engineering Ltd seeking declarator that the defenders were precluded from relying on clause 18(3) of the I.C.E. Conditions of Contract to abrogate an arbitration under clause 18(1).

Group; Mr Gordon Reid, QC, for Costain.

LORD WEIR said that the pursuers, who were the subcontractors, had given the contractors notice referring a dispute to arbitration and had proposed one of two named individuals as arbiter. The contractors, who were the defenders, had rejected the suggested names and proposed two different individuals.

The pursuers had replied that they had no objection to one of those two persons provided that he was willing and able to act. They had undertaken to write to him to determine his availability and terms of appointment.

The individual in question had replied that he was willing to act but could not hear the case for a year. The pursuers had passed that information on to the defenders and added that in the circumstances they suggested the parties agree to approach the other person proposed by the defenders.

The defenders had replied advising that court proceedings had been raised by them against the employers and stating that on the

employers concerned the subcontract works they were invoking clause 18(3) to abrogate the arbitration.

Clause 18(3) provided that the contractors might indeed do so provided that they gave notice "before an arbitrator has been agreed or appointed". The question therefore was whether the parties had agreed to subject themselves to arbitration in terms of clause 18(1).

The pursuers contended for a strict approach to the construction of clause 18(3) but in his Lordship's view it was unnecessary to adopt any special canon of construction.

The defenders argued that in the circumstances for the provision for arbitration under clause 15(1) to be operative it was necessary for there to have been an agreement as to the identity of the proposed arbiter.

All that had been done was to identify a possible arbiter and on his drawing attention to his other commitments an attempt had been made to consider the alternative persons proposed by the defenders.

Looking at the correspondence as a whole there had been no

the dispute should be referred.

It was a narrow point but his Lordship had come to the view that the pursuers' argument was to be preferred. No significance was to be attached to the pursuers' qualification that the defenders' nominee should be able and willing to act, for that was something that would inevitably have had to be implied even if it had not been stated at that stage.

It mattered not that the nominee agreed at that stge by the parties proved to be unavailable for one reason or another or that there might be other details to be settled or qualifications to be made.

What mattered as between the parties was that they had agreed upon a person who might be approached to act. Once that had happened the agreement was binding and the parties thereafter moved inexorably down the path towards arbitration.

His Lordship was fortified in that view because he detected that a similar approach had been adopted by Lord Cullen in *Haden Young Ltd v William McCrindle and Son Ltd* (1994 SLT 221).

Law agents:

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EDUCATION

Times guide to the top research universities

Official ratings published today of Britain's research universities, produced by subject specialists for the four higher education funding councils, will make or break the reputations of thousands of academics and affect the budgets of whole universities. It includes a new grade for research of international excellence.

John O'Leary explains how research teams have been graded and how to read the ratings

Panels of leading researchers in 69 subjects have spent much of the past year judging their colleagues' work. The membership was drawn from learned societies, subject associations and other expert groups.

The assessments, the first for four years, graded research teams on a seven-point scale. This ranged from 5* departments with a majority of work reaching levels of international excellence to those with a rating of 1, which were found to have virtually no research of national significance.

The listing below covers only those in the top two categories. Departments that did badly are, therefore, not listed. Universities and colleges could enter as many or as few staff as they chose to have assessed, but the proportion entered will have implications for future funding levels.

Those entering at least 95 per cent of staff are marked A, 80-94 per cent B, 60-79 per cent C, 40-59 per cent D, 20-39 per cent E and below 20 per cent F. The third column of figures shows the number of "research active" staff, expressed as full-time equivalent posts.

● The full report of the *1996 Research Assessment Exercise* is available, price £15, from External Relations, HEFCE, Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QD.

CHARLIE BIBBY/NEWSTEAM

Throwing new light on research: Professor Kay Davies of Oxford University's bio-chemistry department at work in her laboratory

Will quest for new frontiers be lost?

Dan Cohn-Sherbok

reports on the fears in the corridors of academia

Since October one of my friends who teaches at another university has been a complete wreck. He rings me every week to discuss his situation. He is a distinguished and prolific scholar, who, two years ago, was appointed to a well-deserved personal chair. However, as a result of the Research Assessment Exercise, he fears that his department may be closed down.

His colleagues publish very little and his department received a 2 rating last time. My friend was convinced that despite his own productivity the same would happen again. "Look," he said, "our vice-chancellor has just announced that he intends to do away with any departments that get less than a 3b; that means I'll be out of a job. I was an idiot to give up tenure just to get a chair. Do you realise I'll only get a week's salary for every year I've worked here if I'm made redundant. And how on earth in the present climate am I going to get another job? I'll end up being a taxi-driver."

My friend's perilous situation is an extreme case, but academics around the country were all worried by the RAE process. Last week I overheard a group of lecturers in my own senior commonroom discuss the situation. Because departments are to be rated in absolute terms against a set of specific criteria, one of the more optimistic participants was convinced that the ratings would be generally higher and everyone would be safe. "It's inevitable," he insisted. "If all departments are trying to improve, then the ratings will go up, in the same way that GCSE and A-level results have steadily got better. We'll all be awarded a higher grade than we had last time."

Another academic, however, offered a far gloomier prognosis. "It won't be like that," he said. "I don't think we have improved that much and, whatever they say, they'll judge us against each other. In any case, there's a fixed amount of money, so it's just a case of how the cake is divided. Even if we're given a higher grade, the department may still get less money."

There are fears, too, about the objectivity of those on the evaluation panels. In principle, those appointed to such bodies are above reproach and, in any case, various safeguards have been built into the system. Nonetheless it is always a mistake to underestimate the vanity of academics. Many are convinced that personal animosities and prejudices will still play a role.

These are universal concerns. Academics are feeling very threatened. The possibility of departmental closure hangs over many and even those lecturers who have managed to retain employment tenure are frightened that they will be moved to areas where they have little expertise and where they will be burdened with enormous teaching loads.

Over the past year expert panels have been responsible for the process of assessment. The scale of excellence runs from 1 (the worst) to 5* (the best). Those who have been given the bottom score are deemed to have produced virtually no worthwhile research at all. Those who have achieved the highest level are judged to have published work of international distinction. To have been awarded the various points in between called for varying degrees of international and national excellence. On the basis of such ratings, funding will be distributed to the universities, creating both winners and losers.

Not surprisingly, this scheme has provoked considerable dismay in both the old and the new universities. Even those in departments which did well in the last exercise several years ago have been deeply concerned that their ratings will slip and, as a result, funding will be lost.

Aware of such dangers, vice-chancellors have been keen to poach high-powered researchers from other institutions so as to boost the ratings of favoured subjects. Such league table mentality has profoundly altered the nature of academic life in Britain. Academics are encouraged to target prestigious journals in the hope, not of pressing forward into new areas of exploration, but of improving scores. The idea of knowledge for its own sake has been set aside in the quest for good results and more money.

The Government insists that this spirit of competition will produce more and better research. Its case has yet to be proved; what is certain is that scholars no longer pursue learning for the love of it or to advance the frontiers of human understanding. Instead, the academic environment is fast becoming a dog-eat-dog world.

● *The author teaches at the University of Kent and is visiting Professor at the universities of Wales, Lampeter and Middlesex.*

Subject & university	Grade	%	Numbers entered
CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES			
Royal Postgraduate Medical School	5*	A	36.3
Institute of Cancer Research			
A — Biological Clinical Laboratory Sciences	5*	A	24.6
B — Medical Physics	5	A	16.8
Oxford			
A — Clinical Laboratory Sciences	5	B	40.4
B — Dunn School of Pathology	5*	B	21.0
Cambridge	5	A	73.0
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	5	A	64.5
Birmingham	5	C	29.8
COMMUNITY-BASED CLINICAL SUBJECTS			
Cambridge	5*	A	26.0
King's College — Institute of Psychiatry	5*	B	123.0
Oxford	5*	B	51.1
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	5	A	117.0
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine	5	A	23.1
Wales College of Medicine	5	B	49.8
University College London	5	B	47.8
HOSPITAL-BASED CLINICAL SUBJECTS			
Oxford	5*	A	179.0
Imperial College — National Heart and Lung Institute	5*	A	83.5
University College London — Institute of Ophthalmology	5*	A	24.0
Royal Postgraduate Medical School	5	A	133.0
Edinburgh	5	A	126.0
Cambridge	5	A	63.0
University College London — Institute of Neurology	5	A	53.3
Exeter	5	A	1.5
University College London — Institute of Child Health	5	B	97.2
CLINICAL DENTISTRY			
UMDS Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals	5*	B	48.2
University College London — Eastman Dental Institute	5	B	41.5
Manchester	5	B	36.5
PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES			
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	5	B	23.4
ANATOMY			
University College London	5*	A	52.4
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine	5*	A	8.9
Birmingham	5*	D	6.0
Cambridge	5	A	24.0
Oxford	5	A	16.8
Liverpool	5	C	12.0
PHYSIOLOGY			
Liverpool	5*	B	13.0
Oxford	5	A	38.5
Bristol	5	A	25.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	A	19.0
Cambridge	5	C	22.0
PHARMACOLOGY			
University College London	5*	A	19.5
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine	5*	A	6.0
Leicester	5*	B	12.0
Cambridge	5	A	25.0
Bristol	5	A	16.0
Oxford	5	B	17.0
Liverpool	5	B	16.0
PHARMACY			
Nottingham	5*	A	27.0
Bath	5	A	44.0
Manchester	5	A	24.0
Institute of Cancer Research	5	A	19.0
School of Pharmacy	5	B	37.0
Wales, Cardiff	5	B	26.7
NURSING			
King's College London	5	B	32.0
OTHER STUDIES AND PROFESSIONS ALLIED TO MEDICINE			
Southampton (Nutrition)	5*	A	7.5
Strathclyde	5*	B	6.0
Ulster (Biomedical Sciences)	5*	C	32.0
Wales, Cardiff	5	A	14.0
Loughborough	5	A	6.0
Surrey (Toxicology)	5	B	24.3
BIOCHEMISTRY			
Oxford	5*	A	51.5
Cambridge	5*	B	35.0
Dundee	5*	B	28.7
Leeds	5	A	32.5
Bristol	5	A	23.0
Manchester	5	B	43.7
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	5	B	39.9
University College London	5	B	31.8
Birmingham	5	B	24.0
Leicester	5	B	21.0
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine	5	B	6.0
Glasgow	5	C	23.3
PSYCHOLOGY			
Oxford	5*	A	21.5
Cambridge	5*	A	20.0
St Andrews	5*	A	20.0
York	5*	A	15.5
University College London	5	A	40.3
Wales, Cardiff	5	A	30.9
Sheffield	5	A	30.0
University College of North Wales, Bangor	5	A	27.8
Bristol	5	A	19.1
Birkbeck College	5	A	19.0
Reading	5	B	17.0
Royal Holloway, London	5	B	15.4
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES			
Institute of Cancer Research	5*	A	30.0
Nottingham (Genetics)	5*	A	12.0
Cambridge			
A — Biotechnology	5	A	4.0
B — Genetics	5*	A	26.5
C — Zoology	5*	A	41.8
Edinburgh	5	A	89.9
Oxford (Zoology)	5	A	60.8
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	5	A	53.3
Warwick	5	A	47.2
Birkbeck College (Crystallography)	5	A	21.0
UMIST	5	A	21.0
Leicester (Genetics)	5	A	19.0
Sussex	5	B	75.5
York	5	B	43.0
East Anglia	5	B	40.6
University College London	5	B	39.0
Bath	5	C	29.0
Glasgow (Molecular Genetics)	5	C	16.0
AGRICULTURE			
Reading (Plant Sciences)	5*	B	23.5
Nottingham	5	A	42.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	B	61.5
Edinburgh	5	B	24.5
The Queen's Belfast	5	D	38.0
FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY			
Nottingham	5*	A	11.0
Leeds	5*	C	7.0
CHEMISTRY			
Oxford	5*	A	72.0
Cambridge	5*	A	65.0
Imperial College, London	5	A	49.0
Bristol	5	A	43.0
Leeds	5	A	41.4
Edinburgh	5	A	38.0
Southampton	5	B	38.0
Sussex	5	B	34.5
Birmingham	5	B	32.6
Nottingham	5	B	32.0
Durham	5	B	26.3
PHYSICS			
Cambridge	5*	A	111.0
Oxford	5*	B	107.0
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	5	A	82.2
University College London	5	A	63.0
Durham	5	A	49.0
Liverpool	5	A	33.0
Birmingham	5	B	65.5
Manchester	5	B	83.0
The Queen's Belfast	5	B	50.0
Bristol	5	B	48.0
Edinburgh	5	B	47.6
Leicester	5	B	34.3
Leeds	5	B	25.5
EARTH SCIENCES			
Cambridge	5*	B	45.0
Oxford	5*	B	22.0
Edinburgh	5	A	49.1
Leeds	5	A	42.0
Bristol	5	A	25.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	A	7.0
Liverpool	5	B	30.0
Open	5	D	15.8
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES			
East Anglia	5*	A	48.0
Reading	5*	A	15.0
Lancaster	5	A	28.0
Southampton	5	B	23.5
PURE MATHEMATICS			
Warwick	5*	A	39.2
Imperial College, London	5*	B	13.2
Oxford	5*	C	27.0
Cambridge	5	A	31.0
Bath	5	A	8.2
East Anglia	5	A	6.0
Edinburgh	5	B	18.0
Manchester	5	B	17.0
Leeds	5	B	16.0
Liverpool	5	B	15.3
Wales, Cardiff	5	B	13.0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5	B	11.0
University College London	5	B	11.0
King's College London	5	B	10.0
UMIST	5	B	7.0
Durham	5	C	9.0
Sussex	5	C	9.0
APPLIED MATHEMATICS			
Cambridge	5*	A	65.6
Oxford	5*	B	22.5
Leeds	5	A	29.0
Bath	5	A	14.0
	5	A	12.0
Durham	5	B	20.0
Bristol	5	B	18.0
King's College London	5	B	14.0
St Andrews	5	B	12.0
Heriot-Watt	5	C	17.0
Exeter	5	C	9.0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5	C	7.3
STATISTICS AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH			
Cambridge	5*	A	14.0
Warwick	5	A	9.0
Bristol	5	A	6.0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5	A	6.0
Lancaster	5	B	12.6
Bath	5	B	10.0
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	5	B	8.2
Southampton (Operational Research)	5	B	7.0
COMPUTER SCIENCE			
York	5*	A	31.3
Cambridge	5*	A	25.0
Warwick	5*	A	21.0
Imperial College, London	5*	B	46.0
Oxford	5*	B	40.0
Glasgow	5*	B	32.3
Edinburgh	5	A	80.2
Bristol	5	A	21.5
Lancaster	5	A	19.0
Dundee	5	A	12.5
Bath	5	A	11.0
Manchester	5	B	54.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	B	31.0
Sussex	5	B	30.3
University College London	5	B	27.0
Southampton	5	B	19.0
GENERAL ENGINEERING			
Cambridge	5*	A	129.0
Oxford	5*	A	67.0
Keele	5*	A	2.1
Strathclyde	5	A	11.9
Liverpool John Moores	5	A	3.0
Durham	5	B	25.0
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	5	B	8.0
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING			
Imperial College, London	5*	A	33.2
Cambridge	5	A	17.0
Bath	5	A	15.2
UMIST	5	B	28.0
University College London	5	B	17.0
Birmingham	5	C	23.0
CIVIL ENGINEERING			
Imperial College, London	5*	B	43.5
Wales, Swansea	5*	B	14.0
Newcastle upon Tyne (Civil Engineering)	5*	B	45.0
University College London (Civil Engineering)	5	A	21.5
Wales, Cardiff	5	A	20.3
Bristol	5	A	14.0
Nottingham	5	B	25.5
City	5	B	18.0
Dundee	5	B	12.7
Bradford	5	C	14.3
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING			
Edinburgh	5*	A	31.0
University College London	5*	A	29.0
Sheffield			
A — Automatic Control and Systems Engineering	5	A	16.0
B — Electrical and Electronic Engineering	5*	A	30.0
Southampton	5*	B	50.4
Surrey	5*	B	46.4
The Queen's Belfast	5	A	26.0
UMIST (Instrumentation and Analytical Science)	5	A	12.0
Strathclyde	5	B	43.3
Imperial College, London	5	B	40.0
Glasgow	5	B	38.0
Bristol	5	B	17.0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5	B	15.0
MECHANICAL, AERONAUTICAL AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING			
Leeds	5*	A	22.3
Imperial College, London	5*	B	64.0
Bath	5*	B	28.0
The Queen's Belfast	5*	B	15.0
Southampton	5	B	73.4
University College London	5	B	20.0
Liverpool (Mechanical Engineering)	5	B	19.0
Cranfield	5	C	87.5
MINERAL AND MINING ENGINEERING			
Heriot-Watt	5*	B	13.7
Imperial College, London	5	A	23.8
METALLURGY AND MATERIALS			
Birmingham	5*	A	26.8
Oxford	5*	A	24.0
Cambridge	5*	A	23.0
Sheffield	5*	A	20.5
Wales, Swansea	5*	A	14.7
Liverpool	5*	A	11.8
Manchester	5*	A	8.0
UMIST (Materials and Corrosion)	5*	A	29.0
Imperial College, London	5	A	23.5
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5	B	17.0
BUILT ENVIRONMENT			
Salford	5*	A	31.0
Reading	5*	A	34.4
University College London	5	A	41.3
Sheffield	5	A	26.0
Cambridge	5	A	17.0
Loughborough	5	C	14.0
Heriot-Watt	5	C	10.3
TOWN AND COUNTY PLANNING			
Wales, Cardiff	5*	A	31.8
Leeds	5*	A	19.0
Glasgow	5*	B	17.0
Sheffield	5	B	10.0
GEOGRAPHY			
Durham	5*	A	33.0
University College London	5*	A	30.9
Cambridge	5*	A	29.0
Bristol	5*	A	21.0
Edinburgh	5*	A	18.0
Leeds	5	A	32.0
Sheffield	5	A	25.0
Southampton	5	A	21.4
Royal Holloway, London	5	A	20.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	B	26.0
LAW			
Cambridge	5*	B	59.0
Oxford	5*	B	58.3
King's College London	5	A	50.8
University College London	5	A	36.5
London School of Economics	5	A	36.0
Manchester	5	A	30.5
Birkbeck College	5	A	11.4
Sheffield	5	B	40.0
Wales, Cardiff	5	B	32.5
Nottingham	5	B	28.5
Aberdeen	5	B	25.3
Southampton	5	B	25.0
Essex	5	C	17.0
ANTHROPOLOGY			
Cambridge	5*	A	19.0
University College London	5	A	21.5
London School of Economics	5	A	16.0
Manchester	5	A	15.0
Goldsmiths College	5	A	9.5
Brunel	5	A	5.9
School of Oriental & African Studies	5	B	17.5
ECONOMICS AND ECONOMETRICS			
London School of Economics	5*	A	53.8
University College London	5*	A	24.1
Oxford	5*	B	52.5
Cambridge	5	A	57.0
Warwick	5	A	36.4
York	5	A	35.6
Southampton	5	A	34.0
Nottingham	5	A	23.0
Essex	5	B	28.0
Bristol	5	B	19.5
Birkbeck College	5	B	18.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	C	15.4
Exeter	5	C	9.9
POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES			
King's College London	5*	A	22.0
London School of Economics	5*	B	59.3
Oxford	5*	B	48.0
Sussex (Science Policy Research Unit)	5	A	39.5
Glasgow	5	C	13.0
Institute of Commonwealth Studies	5	E	0.5
SOCIAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION			
London School of Economics	5*	A	38.8
York	5	A	30.9
Kent at Canterbury	5	A	21.8
Bristol	5	B	30.1
Bath	5	B	8.6
SOCIAL WORK			
Stirling	5*	C	22.5
East Anglia	5	A	15.6
York	5	A	15.6
Lancaster	5	A	12.8
Warwick	5	A	10.8
SOCIOLOGY			
Essex	5*	A	32.7
Lancaster	5*	A	28.5
Manchester	5	A	33.2
Loughborough	5	A	33.0
Warwick	5	A	31.5
Edinburgh	5	A	23.4
Surrey	5	B	15.8
Goldsmiths College	5	B	15.5
Oxford	5	B	7.0
BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES			
Lancaster	5*	B	69.3
London Business School	5*	A	86.5
UMIST	5*	A	85.3
Warwick	5	A	113.0
London School of Economics	5	A	34.5
Wales, Cardiff	5	B	73.9
Bath	5	B	36.0
Southampton	5	B	19.3
Reading	5	B	14.0
Strathclyde	5	C	68.0
ACCOUNTANCY			
Manchester	5*	B	18.6
London School of Economics	5	A	20.0
Edinburgh	5	A	10.0
Exeter	5	B	5.0
Strathclyde	5	C	12.0
AMERICAN STUDIES (CANADA, THE CARIBBEAN, LATIN AMERICA AND THE US)			
Institute of Latin American Studies	5*	A	5.0
Keele	5	A	15.0
Nottingham	5	A	12.0
Sussex	5	B	11.0
MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN STUDIES			
Birmingham	5*	A	8.0
Cambridge	5	A	14.0
Manchester	5	A	14.0
Oxford	5	B	24.5
ASIAN STUDIES			
Oxford	5*	C	14.3
Cambridge	5	A	19.0
Durham	5	C	6.0
EUROPEAN STUDIES			
Birmingham	5*	A	16.0
Salford	5	A	47.3
Loughborough	5	A	18.0
Bradford (European Studies)	5	A	15.0
Bath	5	B	24.0
Glasgow	5	B	5.0
The Queen's Belfast (Institute of Irish Studies)	5	B	8.8
CELTIC STUDIES			
Wales Centre for Adv. Welsh and Celtic Studies	5	A	14.2
Wales, Aberystwyth	5	A	13.0
Wales, Cardiff	5	A	6.0
Oxford	5	A	1.0
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE			
Oxford	5*	A	67.5
University College London	5*	A	26.3
Cambridge			
A — Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic	5*	A	10.0
B — English	5*	B	41.5
Leeds	5	A	44.2
Wales, Cardiff	5	A	38.0
Birmingham	5	B	41.1
York	5	B	30.5
Sussex	5	B	27.7
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5	B	25.0
University College London	5*	A	11.9
Oxford	5*	B	29.0
Warwick	5	A	11.0
Birkbeck College	5	A	8.0
Reading	5	B	14.6
Bristol	5	B	14.0
Sussex	5	B	12.0
Manchester	5	B	11.0
Royal Holloway, London	5	B	11.0
GERMAN, DUTCH AND SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES			
Cambridge	5*	A	17.0
King's College London	5*	A	8.0
Nottingham	5*	A	6.5
Institute of Germanic Studies	5*	A	1.0
Oxford	5*	B	19.0
East Anglia (Scandinavian)	5*	E	2.0
Birmingham	5	A	14.0
Manchester	5	A	11.0
Wales, Swansea	5	A	10.0
University College London (Dutch)	5	A	5.0
Sussex	5	A	3.7
ITALIAN			
University College London	5*	A	9.3
Cambridge	5*	A	6.0
Leeds	5*	C	3.0
Royal Holloway, London	5	A	10.0
Reading	5	A	9.0
Oxford	5	B	6.0
RUSSIAN, SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES			
Nottingham	5*	A	7.0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5*	D	1.0
Cambridge	5	A	7.0
Bristol	5	A	6.0
Sheffield	5	A	5.0
Oxford	5	C	9.0
Portsmouth	5	D	1.0
IBERIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN LANGUAGES			
Cambridge	5*	A	10.0
King's College London			
A — Spanish and Spanish-American Studies	5	A	11.0
B — Portuguese and Brazilian Studies	5	A	5.0
Birmingham	5	A	8.4
Queen Mary and Westfield College	5	A	7.8
Aberdeen	5	A	5.1
Liverpool	5	A	5.0
Nottingham	5	B	6.0
Oxford (Spanish)	5	C	9.0
LINGUISTICS			
Cambridge	5	A	7.0
Thames Valley	5	A	3.8
University College London	5	B	23.0
Manchester	5	B	10.2
School of Oriental & African Studies	5	B	8.0
Oxford	5	B	6.0
CLASSICS, ANCIENT HISTORY, BYZANTINE AND MODERN GREEK STUDIES			
Oxford	5*	A	45.1
Cambridge	5*	A	33.0
King's College London	5*	A	18.0
University College London	5*	A	12.2
Institute of Classical Studies	5*	A	0.5
Royal Holloway, London	5	A	14.5
Bristol	5	A	10.0
Exeter	5	A	9.0
Reading	5	A	8.2
Birmingham (Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies)	5	A	6.3
St Andrews	5	C	11.3
ARCHAEOLOGY			
Cambridge	5*	A	25.5
Sheffield	5*	A	20.8
Oxford	5*	B	27.0
University College London	5	A	48.4
Durham	5	A	21.6
Southampton	5	A	21.2
Bradford	5	A	18.0
Leicester	5	A	16.0
Reading	5	A	11.0
The Queen's Belfast	5	B	10.0
HISTORY			
Cambridge	5*	A	61.0
Warwick	5*	A	38.7
University College London	5*	A	31.9
King's College London	5*	A	17.0
London School of Economics			
A — International History	5	A	16.0
B — Economic History	5*	A	19.0
Oxford	5*	B	93.7
School of Oriental & African Studies	5*	B	24.0
Sheffield	5	A	31.0
East Anglia	5	A	26.4
Bristol	5	A	21.0
Durham	5	A	20.3
Birkbeck College	5	A	17.5
Imperial College, London	5	A	4.8
Institute of Commonwealth Studies	5	A	4.0
Birmingham (School of History)	5	A	21.9
Leicester (Econ and Social History and Local History)	5	A	16.0
Edinburgh (Economic and Social History)	5	A	14.0
Manchester	5	B	39.0
Royal Holloway, London	5	B	32.5
St Andrews	5	B	28.5
Leeds	5	B	27.0
Sussex	5	B	25.6
Ulster	5	B	17.0
Strathclyde	5	B	13.6
Hull			
A — Economic and Social History	5	C	5.3
B — History	5	B	15.0
Open	5	C	12.0
HISTORY OF ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN			
Courtauld Institute of Art	5*	A	24.2
Sussex	5*	A	8.0
Cambridge	5*	A	7.0
University College London	5	A	13.0
Essex	5	A	11.3
School of Oriental & African Studies	5	A	10.0
Leeds	5	B	12.3
Open	5	C	8.0
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT			
Sheffield	5*	A	12.5
City	5*	A	10.0
Loughborough	5	C	14.8
PHILOSOPHY			
Cambridge			
A — History and Philosophy of Science	5*	A	15.0
B — Philosophy	5	A	12.0
Oxford	5*	B	46.0
King's College London	5	A	16.5
St Andrews	5	A	13.0
Birkbeck College	5	A	10.5
Sheffield	5	A	10.0
London School of Economics	5	A	9.3
THEOLOGY, DIVINITY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES			
Lancaster	5*	A	14.0
Sheffield	5*	A	12.0
Manchester	5*	B	16.1
Edinburgh	5	A	29.5
Cambridge	5	A	24.0
King's College London	5	A	20.5
Oxford	5	A	16.0
Durham	5	A	15.3
Birmingham	5	A	14.3
School of Oriental & African Studies	5	A	10.8
Wales, Cardiff	5	A	6.0
St Andrews	5	C	10.0
Nottingham	5	C	8.0
ART AND DESIGN			
University College London	5*	A	26.7
Brunel	5*	A	18.9
Goldsmiths College	5*	C	42.2
Wimbledon School of Art	5	A	34.4
Oxford	5	A	8.1
Open	5	B	14.0
Dundee	5	C	47.7
COMMUNICATION, CULTURAL AND MEDIA STUDIES			
Sussex	5	A	10.5
Warwick	5	A	6.0
East Anglia	5	A	5.0
East London	5	C	14.9
Stirling	5	C	10.0
Westminster	5	C	9.0
DRAMA, DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS			
Roehampton Institute			
Royal Holloway, London	5*	A	19.7
Warwick	5	A	8.3
MUSIC			
King's College London	5*	A	8.6
Liverpool	5*	A	8.0
School of Oriental & African Studies	5*	A	5.8
Oxford	5*	B	10.0
Royal Holloway, London	5*	C	10.4
Manchester	5*	C	8.4
Cambridge	5	A	13.0
York	5	A	10.5
Durham	5	A	10.0
Birmingham	5	A	9.8
Leeds	5	A	7.0
Nottingham	5	A	7.0
Sheffield	5	A	7.0
Southampton	5	B	10.0
Open	5	B	6.0
The Queen's Belfast	5	B	8.0
Goldsmiths College	5	C	14.0
City	5	C	7.0
Royal College of Music	5	E	19.5
Royal Academy of Music	5	E	15.9
Royal Northern College of Music	5	F	12.7
EDUCATION			
Institute of Education	5*	B	140.0
King's College London	5*	B	35.2
Birmingham	5	A	63.1
Sheffield	5	A	38.4
Lancaster	5	A	22.0
Leeds	5	B	74.3
Bristol	5	B	50.2
East Anglia	5	B	25.5
Bath	5	B	22.0
Oxford	5	B	18.1
Open (Educational Technology)	5	B	50.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	5	C	30.0
Stirling	5	C	17.6
SPORTS-RELATED SUBJECTS			

DRUGS IN SPORT

De Merode demands reduction in bans

By John Goodbody

THE Olympic Games' leading drugs official yesterday condemned the strict sanctions against cheating competitors as "excessive" and recommended a two-year ban.

The controversial views of Prince Alexandre de Merode were immediately condemned by the British Athletics Federation (BAF), which last year persuaded other countries to keep to a four-year suspension for a serious doping offence.

The prince, the long-serving president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission, said: "The level of sanctions is, in my opinion, excessive. In some respects, it is completely obsolete and, if we really want to be realistic today, it is necessary to reform sanctions.

"Strict sanctions were appropriate when we were dealing with top amateurs, but since sport has become a profession, we are faced with a major social problem. These sanctions have deep repercussions on people and their standard of living."

The prince was being interviewed in the *Olympic Magazine*, which is published every three years by the IOC. He recommended varying gradations of sanctions. "Perhaps suspension [for a short time] that allows the person, in spite of everything, to practise his or her profession but with less intensity. By this, I mean forbidding them from competing in major international competitions."

He added that he thought economic sanctions were also necessary because "they are hard to take and accept. Finally, there should be a measure that I would call educational, that is a special suspension during, for example, a period of one year. Altogether, the maximum sanction could be two years."

The IOC and the international federations that govern world sport are concerned at the growing number of civil court cases. Competitors, such as Katrin Krabbe, the former East German sprint world champion, have successfully claimed that a four-year suspension for a drug offence is a restraint of their trade.

However, at the congress of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in 1995, the length of the ban was settled at four years for a first offence. This was largely due to a passionate and successful speech by Professor Peter Radford, the BAF's executive chairman.

Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, said yesterday: "We will fight to keep four years all the way. Sport needs a collective will and we have that in athletics. Ask athletes in this country and they will prefer life bans.

"I am amazed at what de Merode says. His suggestion that there is any difference between professional and amateur is quite ludicrous. Money does not come into it." He said that de Merode was out of touch with the thinking at federation level, citing the huge majority for four years when it was voted on in Gothenburg.

The IAAF is not the strictest world governing body on doping offences. Weightlifting has an automatic life ban for a first offence for hormone drugs.

Ward: dismissive

Krabbe: appealed

Davis felt at liberty to admit his shortcomings as a pool player after his match against Daulton in the Mosconi Cup yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Davis in at the deep end on the pool table

Mel Webb discovers that one of snooker's finest has some way to go before he can be acclaimed as a master of another game played on the green baize

Picture it, if you will. We are in a dingy, crowded backstreet room. The air is blue with tobacco smoke. Bad suits and snap-brimmed trilbies are *de rigueur*. The men in the room share a strange physical deformity — they can only speak from the corner of their mouths. Cash is changing hands with lightning rapidity. It is so sleazy that you can almost taste it. This is pool.

Or rather, it is the game as it is portrayed by the cinematic arts. This is the world of *The Hustler* and *The Colour of Money*. It is the sport that sees the blue-collar kid from the boondocks sucked into a sort of shadowy underclass in which the game is played by innocents and profited from by hoods with hard accents and hair that is saturated with bay rum. The man with the money is somebody who looks remarkably like Paul Newman, and in the corner sits an idiot savant who knows nothing but the life story of Minnesota Fats, which he can relate with encyclopaedic thoroughness.

That is one of the two most commonly-held perceptions of the game. The other, as British as can be, is of a harmless saloon-bar game being played by laddish young men with hoods on their sweatshirts and an aversion to drinking their lager from a glass. It is not quite a subculture, but it is pretty close.

It therefore comes as something of a surprise to find that not only is pool perfectly respectable, it is even played by Steve Davis: there have been few more squeaky-clean British sportspeople in the past 20 years. If it earns Davis's imprimatur, then it should be all right with the rest of us, and no arguing at the back.

Davis was at the large and impressive Goresbrook Leisure Centre, near Dagenham, yesterday for the first day of a four-day extravaganza of nine-ball pool that is being contested by a European team and, it goes without saying, one from the United States. The match is being billed as the Ryder Cup of pool, but the only obvious similarity is that it is being contested by human beings who play a game against one another. There are symbolic links between many sports; golf and nine-ball pool are not, at first, or even fifteenth, glance, naturally empathetic.

At stake is a trophy called the Mosconi Cup, which sounds as if it has been named after a branch of the Russian mafia or an exotic Italian dessert that contains something vaguely cheesy, but is in fact in memory of a great American pool player. What a shame; one imagines that it would be not less than interesting to meet a member of the Russian mafia.

Davis was in the team that upset the Americans last year by beating them at a sport that is played by 47 million people on the other side of the Atlantic. He did take one rack (English translation: frame) when he sank the nine-ball with a break-off shot which travelled at 9.4mph, which is like a Formula One grand prix being won by a Nissan Micra, but went on to lose to Shannon "The Cannon" Daulton in a match decided by a sudden-death play-off.

And there, quite aside from the result, is a small problem with this match. Everybody has to have a nickname, and if a player does not have one it is not long before he does. Thus it was that the man beaten by Daulton yesterday afternoon was not S. Davis, six-times world snooker champion, but Steve "The Nugget" Davis, part-time shooter of nine-ball pool.

Jimmy White's late withdrawal from the match yesterday morning due to a family bereavement meant that Ronnie O'Sullivan was drafted into a European side that also contains a Frenchman, two Germans and a Finn.

O'Sullivan is known in snooker as "The Rocket". Fair enough, that qualifies. Except that there are two other Rockets in the teams, Roger Griffis, of the United States, and Andy Richardson, of England. They were still locked in negotiation yesterday afternoon; the only communiqué that was issued was that this match would henceforth contain not only a Rocket, but also a Torpedo and a Missile.

"The more I play this game, the more I realise that I don't really know what I'm doing," Davis said as he reflected on his defeat. "This is in at the deep end for a snooker player. When you walk to the snooker table, you instinctively know what shots to play; sometimes at pool, I have no idea."

What honesty, what candour, what typical modesty from a master of his game. Steve Davis as hustler? Hardly. He has a lot to learn. Like teaching himself to talk out of the side of his mouth.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The final type of signal that I want to discuss in this refresher series is the "McKenney", or suit-preference, signal. Far and away the most important use is when you are giving your partner a ruff. If you want him to return the higher-ranking of the other two suits (trumps in general being excluded), you return a high card; if you want him to return a lower-ranking suit, you return a low card.

An example. South opens 1 NT (12-14) and, after Stayman, becomes declarer in Four Spades. Your partner leads the two of clubs and, as East, this is what you see:

♠AQ63
♥K4
♦63
♣KQJ83

N
W E
S

♠75
♥863
♦A1054
♣A974

You know that the lead is a singleton (declarer must have at least two clubs for his 1 NT opening and, if your partner had a doubleton, he would lead the higher one). So, you take the ace and return the four of clubs, requesting a shift to diamonds. That way, you will get in and give your partner his second ruff before declarer can draw trumps. Had you had the ace of hearts instead of the ace of diamonds, you would have returned the nine of clubs when giving your partner his ruff.

Modify the hand to:

♠KQ63
♥A4
♦63
♣KQ1083

N
W E
S

♠75
♥K65
♦10742
♣A974

Again, your partner leads the two of clubs. Now, you have no quick entry, but you still return the nine of clubs. You can see that this will set up a second-round entry for you and, more important, it prevents your partner from making a perhaps disastrous switch into the declarer's diamond tenace.

Though you will not go far wrong if you confine suit-preference signals to the ruffing positions discussed today, many tournament players use the signals in other positions. For example, if you hold 9 6 2 and play the 2 to show an odd number on the first round of a suit, you can play the 9 or the 6 on the second round to send suit-preference messages. I will discuss an example of another use, in No-Trump contracts, next week.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TRESAIEL
a. A three-masted schooner
b. A grandfather's grandfather
c. Highland shamrock

UNWRASTE
a. Worthless

TERGANT
a. A sailor ant
b. Angry
c. Turning the back

URUCU
a. An East African language
b. A chieftain
c. A red tree

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Topalov's win

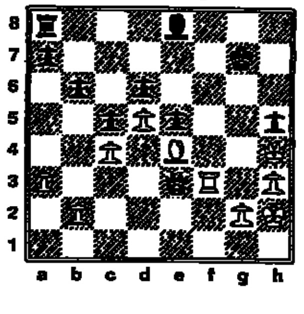
The Bulgarian grandmaster Veselin Topalov appeared to have been singled out as the weak link in the elite Las Palmas tournament. However, in round seven he fought back to score his first victory. As in his game with Ivanchuk, Kramnik handled the King's Indian Defence in unfortunate fashion and was overrun.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Las Palmas, December 1996

King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	e4	d6
5	Nf3	0-0
6	Be2	e5
7	Be3	c6
8	d5	Ng4
9	Bg5	f6
10	Bh4	c5
11	0-0	Nh6
12	Ne1	Nd7
13	Rb1	b6
14	a3	g5
15	Bg3	f5
16	exf5	Nxf5
17	Ne4	h6
18	Nc2	Nf6
19	Bd3	Qe8
20	Ne3	Nxe4
21	Bxe4	h5
22	Qd3	Qf7
23	f3	Nxe3
24	Qxe3	Bh6
25	Be1	Qg7
26	Bd2	Rf6
27	Qd3	g4
28	Bxh6	Qxh6
29	fxg4	Bxg4
30	Rxf6	Qxf6
31	Rf1	Qg7
32	h3	Bd7
33	Qf3	Be8
34	Qf5	Qf7
35	Qg5+	Qg7
36	Qh4	Qh6
37	Rf6	Qe3+
38	Kh2	Kg7
39	Rf3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Crosstable after seven rounds at Las Palmas

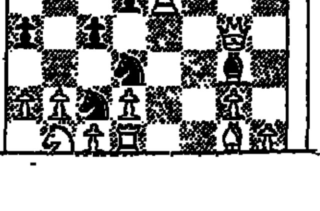
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
Kasparov	—	½	½ 1	½	½	1 ½	4½
Anand	½	—	1	½ 1	½ 0	½	4
Ivanchuk	½ 0	0	—	½ ½	1	1	3½
Karpov	½	½ 0	½ ½	—	½	½	3
Kramnik	½	½ 1	0	½	—	½ 0	3
Topalov	0 ½	½	0	½	½ 1	—	3

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Ilaudy — Leyva, Cuba 1995. Black has just sacrificed his queen to lure the white rook away from the back rank. Can you spot the brilliant conclusion that Black had in mind?



BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 99 New Jersey 81; Indiana 102 Orlando 95 (OT); Detroit 112 New York 78; LA Lakers 111 Milwaukee 105; Denver 95 Sacramento 79; Phoenix 114 Washington 107; Seattle 106 Portland 102; Golden State 123 Minnesota 96.

LEIPZIG: European Championship semi-final round: Group B: Germany 88 England 67.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCHES: Wangaratta (first day of four): Victoria 354 (G Vimpani 133, D S Berry 50; N A M McLean 5-48) v West Indians. Hobart (first day of four): Pakistanis 299 (Shahid Afridi 80, Mushtaq Ahmed 65; S Young 7-64); Tasmania 73-1.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Brisbane (first day of four): New South Wales 190 (S Waugh 55; A Bichel 6-56); Queensland 89-2.

SHEIKHUPURA: Under-19 international (first day of four): England 224-5 (S Peters 74, D Nash 47) v *Pakistan*.

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: Olympia championships: P & O Event Christmas Cracker: 1, Virtual Village Welham (J Whitaker, GB) 36 faults in 41.49sec; 2, Round Street Charlie (J Renwick, GB) 36, 46.41; 3, Dylano (L McNaught-Mandli, Switz) 36, 47.98. Beeton Rumford Christmas Pudding Stakes: 1, Renville (J Fisher, GB) 48.10; 2, Comex (W Funnell, GB) 50.73; 3, Loro Piana Branca D'Amory (R Pessoa, Br) 51.78. Christmas Stocking Stakes: 1, Virtual Village Quickstar (N Skelton, GB) 47.72; 2, Europa K (N Coupe, GB) 48.4; 3, Trudo Jemmique (L Philippaerts, Bel) 48.53. Christmas Turkey Stakes: 1, Virtual Village Grannusch (J Whitaker, GB) 0 faults in 35.31; 2, Burg's Samantha (B Romp, Hol) 0, 36.83; 3, Operette La Silla (J Tops, Hol) 0, 38.37.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheffield Wednesday 1 Manchester United 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	18	11	4	3	35	17	37
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	34	16	35
Wimbledon	17	10	4	3	30	17	34
Newcastle	17	9	3	5	27	19	30
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30
Man Utd	17	7	7	3	32	25	28
Everton	17	7	6	4	26	20	27
Chelsea	17	6	7	4	25	26	25
Sheff Wed	17	6	7	4	18	19	25
Tottenham	17	7	3	7	17	17	24
Derby	17	5	7	5	19	20	22
Leicester	17	6	3	8	17	22	21
Leeds	17	6	3	8	15	20	21
Sunderland	17	5	5	7	17	21	20
West Ham	17	4	6	7	15	22	18
Middlesbrough	18	3	6	9	21	33	15
Blackburn	17	2	7	8	16	22	13
Southampton	17	3	4	10	24	32	13
Coventry	17	2	7	8	12	24	13
Nottm Forest	17	1	7	9	14	29	10

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round replays: Southampton 3 Oxford United 2; Stockport 2 West Ham 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich Albion 5 Norwich City 1. Second division: Millwall 0 Luton 1.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Dunfermline v Celtic. First division: Airdrie 0 St Johnstone 1.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Spalding Cup: Quarter-final: Morecambe 3 Stalybridge 3 (aet)

WORLD CUP: European Qualifying: Group six: Malta 0 Spain 3.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Gresley Rovers 2 Hastings 2; Burton Albion 1 Merthyr Tydfil 0. CYMRU ALLIANCE: Connah's Quay 2; Cemaes Bay 1 Rhyl 1; Conwy 0 Porthmadog 1; Ebbw Vale 4 Carmarthen Town 0; Holywell 1 Caernarfon 4; Welshpool 4 Briton Ferry 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth 2 Queens Park Rangers 5; Brighton 2 Portsmouth 2; Bristol Rovers 0 Tottenham 2; Norwich 1 Chelsea 2; Swansea 1 Charlton 2.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Leeds 3 Manchester United 3; Tranmere 4 Nottm Forest 2. First division: Blackpool 0 Coventry 0; Middlesbrough 4 Port Vale 1; Sunderland 1 Preston 1. Postponed: Aston Villa v Sheffield United. Second division: Wrexham 0 Rotherham 1; York 2 Shrewsbury 1. League Cup: Group two: Barnsley 2 Scarborough 0.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers Premier Cup: Quarter-final: First leg: London Colney 3 Arlesey 2; Brache Sparta 0 Toddington 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Third round: Knowsley 2 Great Harwood 2. Unifilla first division cup: Second round: Farsley Celtic 1 Stocksbridge PS 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Mile Oak 1 Wick 3.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury 2 Woodbridge 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 0 Lymington 5.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Cup: Third round: Hall Road Rangers 1 Pickering 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round replay: Queens Park Rangers 1 Bristol Rovers 0.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Brazil 1 Bosnia 0 (in Manaus).

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-final: second leg: Internazionale 1 Juventus 1 (Internazionale win 4-1 on agg)

DUTCH LEAGUE: Feyenoord 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 0; Fortuna Sittard 2 NAC Breda 2

ASIAN CUP: Semi-finals: United Arab Emirates 1 Kuwait 0; Saudi Arabia 0 Iran 0 (Saudi Arabia won 4-3 on pens).

ETON FIVES

ETON: Kinnaird Cup: Quarter-finals: E Wass and J Halstead bt J Frederick and M de Souza-Girao 12-8, 12-2, 12-5; R Mason and J Mole bt P Markkanen and K Rudman 14-11, 12-10, 12-9; R Tyler and P Marshall bt R Norris and J Fleming 12-10, 15-13, 3-12, 12-6, J Reynolds and H Wiseman bt R Topham and M Moore 12-8, 14-13, 6-12, 12-5

HOCKEY

NEW DELHI: Women's Indira Gandhi Gold Cup: South Korea 10 Russia 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 5 Tampa Bay 3; NY Rangers 4 Los Angeles 0; Dallas 3 Chicago 2 (OT); Colorado 4 Edmonton 4 (OT); New Jersey 2 Vancouver 1; Detroit 3 Calgary 3 (OT).

SHEFFIELD: Olympic qualifying match: Great Britain 3 Switzerland 3

MOSCOW: Izvestia Cup: Czech Republic 3 Sweden 3.

NAGANO: Nagano Cup: Japan 4 Finland 3; Canadian University Selection 4 Denmark 2.

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Bristol 12 Leicester 38.

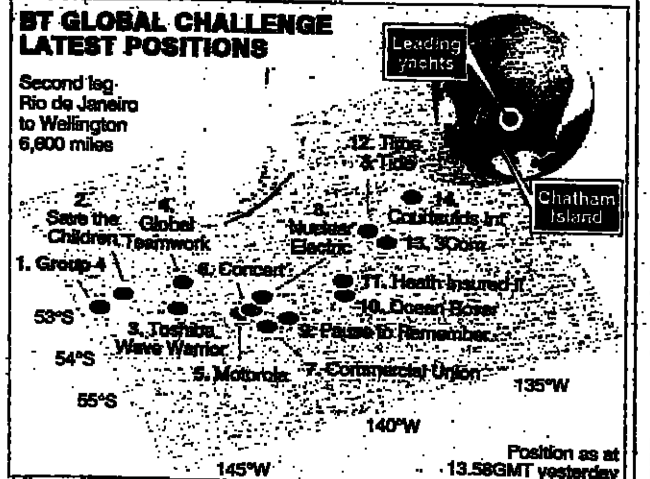
TIPP-EX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Cambridgeshire 22 Suffolk 42 (at Shelford); *Essex 15 Norfolk 29 (at Thurrock)*.

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Uncle Ben's British winter championships: Qualifiers for finals: (fastest eight from heats). Men: Freestyle: 200m: 1, M Stevens (Satellite) 1min 48.28sec; 2, J Salter (Warrender) 1:49.68; 3, G Meadows (Leeds) 1:49.88; 4, A Clayton (Leeds) 1:50.17; 5, G Smith (Stockport) 1:50.39; 6, P Palmer (Lincoln) 1:50.58; 7, G Hudson (Portsmouth) 1:51.21; 8, A Woods (Norwich) 1:51.68. 1,500m: 1, I Wilson (City of Leeds) 15:15.19; 2, G Smith (Stockport Metro) 15:27.47; 3, G Orphanides (Killerwhales) 15:34.91; 4, T Archer (Nova Centurion) 15:35.98; 5, N Sloan (Nova Centurion) 15:36.69; 6, G Hudson (Portsmouth) 15:41.85; 7, L Wardell (Loughborough) 16:05.16; 8, E Clement (Killerwhales) 16:07.80. Backstroke: 50m: 1, M Harris (Tower Hamlets) 25.60sec; 2, N Willey (Barnet) 25.98; 3, A O'Connor (Ire) 26.19; 4, W Van Den Akker (Hol) 26.24; 5, S Handley (Bristol) 26.39; 6, T Riley (Man University/Salford) 26.45; 7, K Gammon (Devon Atlantic) 26.94; 8, M Smallbone (Loughborough) 27.05. Butterfly: 100m: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 53.30 (British record); 2, J Goljovic (City of Sheffield) 55.23; 3, P Khnykin (Ukr) 55.40; 4, M Watkins (Torfaen) 55.46; 5, D Carr (Sheffield) 55.52; 6, P McCarthy (Ire) 55.58; 7, S Mavin (Loughborough) 55.92; 8, S Brinn (Jam) 56.42. Women: Freestyle: 200m: 1, K Pickering (Ipswich) 2min 0.99sec; 2, K Haworth (Manchester United/Salford) 2:01.88; 3, L Nicholls (Can) 2:02.00; 4, C Huddart (Leeds) 2:02.05; 5, J Belton (Bradford) 2:02.31; 6, S Collings (Bradford) 2:02.75; 7, S Simard (Can) 2:02.87; 8, V Horner (Stockport) 2:03.04. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, M Baane (Hol) 1:09.78; 2, J King (Borough of Waltham) 1:10.38; 3, L Hindmarsh (Leeds) 1:11.60; 4, N Thornley (Man Utd) 1:11.69; 5, H Earp (Newcastle-under-Lyme) 1:12.32; 6, R Mante (Can) 1:12.54; 7, S Whewell (City of Newcastle) 1:12.55; 8, S Lawrence (Hillingdon) 1:12.87. 200m: 1, H Barnes (Maxwell) 2:14.33; 2, J Deakins (Coventry) 2:14.65; 3, Z Cray (Ipswich) 2:15.88; 4, K Thomson (Leeds) 2:16.15; 5, K Osher (Ealing) 2:16.28; 6, L Graham (Sunderland) 2:16.57; 7, W Greaves (Loughborough) 2:17.05; 8, N Cawley (Ireland) 2:17.22. 400m individual medley: 1, C Niblett (Leeds) 4:51.15; 2, J Swallow (Killerwhales) 4:51.41; 3, S Nesbit (Portsmouth) 4:54.29; 4, M Thom (Devon Atlantic) 4:56.01; 5, H Slatter (City of Coventry) 4:56.50; 6, T Williams (Stockton) 4:57.82; 7, T Evanson (Harrogate) 4:58.85; 8, N Brown (Southend) 4:58.91.

TENNIS

MIAMI BEACH: Rolex Orange Bowl: Boys: Singles: Fourth round: Under-18: M Lee (GB) bt Alexandre Simoni (Br) 7-6 (7-4), 6-4. Under-16: F Gonzalez (Chile) bt S Dickson (GB) 6-2, 6-2; M J Llevano (Col) bt D Sherwood (GB) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. Girls: Second round: Under-18: L Osterloh (US) bt J Choudhury (GB) 7-6, 6-3.



DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1. Group 4 1,734 miles; 2, Save The Children 1,786; 3, Toshiba Wave Warrior 1,821; 4, Global Teamwork 1,835; 5, Motorola 1,857; 6, Concert 1,897;

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
First division
Southend v Birmingham (7.45)

Second division
Crewe v Notts County
Peterborough v Burnley (7.45)
Shrewsbury v Walsall (7.45)

Third division
Colchester v Cambridge Utd (7.45)
Northampton v Hereford (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference
Slough v Welling (7.45)
Northwich v Southport (7.45)

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet v Aylesbury (7.45).
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk v Finn Harps (7.45); St Patrick's Ath v UCD (7.45); Shelbourne v Cork (7.45).
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Watton v Wroxham.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tour match
Batley Bulldogs v Villeneuve (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Classic Cola Men's National Trophy: Semi-final, second leg: Derby (67) v Oxford (73) (8.30).
EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia Championships.
POOL: Mosconi Cup: Europe v [illegible]

ol table

RACING: SURVEY FINDS GROWING TIDE OF RECRUITS BELIEVES IN FUN BEFORE PROFIT

New owners bridge class divide

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

JULIAN HERBERT

SOUND MAN (left) is unlikely to run in the Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day despite being *among the 11 acceptors* announced yesterday (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

Edward O'Grady, his trainer, said: "Sound Man is an unlikely runner. He is in great form, but will go for the Comet Chase at Ascot on February 5, and probably won't run again before then." Jenny Pitman has left in Nahthen Lad despite his poor effort *over hurdles at Bangor on Wednesday.*

One Man is 13-8 on with William Hill to repeat last year's victory for Gordon Richards. Other prices: 4-1 Rough Quest, 10-1 Barton Bank, 12-1 Mr Mulligan, Strong Promise, Trying Again, 16-1 bar.

The acceptors are: Algan (trained by F Doumen, France), Barton Bank (D Nicholson), Couldnt Be Better (C Brooks), *Mr Mulligan (N Chance)*, Nahthen Lad (Mrs J Pitman), Oatis Regrets (Miss H Knight), One Man (G Richards), Rough Quest (T Casey), Sound Man (E O'Grady, Ireland), Strong Promise (G Hubbard), Trying Again (D Gandolfo).

RACEHORSE ownership is no longer just a rich man's hobby. The Sport of Kings is fast becoming the sport of working people, attracted by the excitement and fun of the Turf.

The socio-economic profile of people with horses in training has shifted towards John Major's vision of a classless society with more blue-collar workers involved, according to a survey conducted for the British Horseracing Board (BHB) and Weatherbys.

During the past two years alone, the proportion of racehorses owned by social classes C1, C2, D and E — ranging from typists and shop assistants to bar staff and dustmen — has increased from 29 per cent to 37 per cent, while professional people have cut back their equine interests.

Women also find it increasingly attractive to see their colours carried on the Turf. In 1996, 30 per cent of new owners were women whereas in 1978 there was only 18.5 per cent.

"The vast majority of owners pay for racehorses from earned income. If you go back 20 years that is something you were seeing less of," Lee Richardson, the BHB's marketing director, said.

"Owners in the vast majority of cases are working people. They earn income and this is one way they choose to spend that income," he added.

A typical example of the new breed of owner involves a group of Metropolitan Police officers who formed the Silver and Blue Racing Club so they could afford a horse.

The trend has prompted the BHB to target working men's clubs and company social clubs to tap the potential source of new owners. Trainers will also be encouraged to visit local golf clubs because golf remains the most popular leisure pursuit of racehorse owners.

While low levels of prizemoney in Britain remain a *primary concern of owners,* the survey reveals that the prospect of excitement and fun — rather than financial reward — is the lure for most people.

Among established owners surveyed, 86 per cent offered excitement and fun as the main reason for continuing to have a horse — compared to 68 per cent two years ago when *the first BHB-Weatherbys survey* was conducted. "Prizemoney will always be an important fact, but this survey highlights it is just one of the factors," Richardson added.

A longstanding interest in horses and racing were other reasons given for having a horse in training — plus the dream of owning a champion like Desert Orchid or Dancing Brave.

The insight into owners' views, behaviour and future plans is timely after several weeks when the *financial ills* of racing have dominated the headlines.

Dr Paull Khan, racing director of Weatherbys, commented: "This survey offers no *evidence in support of the view* that we are in or on the verge of crisis. Twenty years after dire warnings about the size of the ownership population, there are 20 per cent more horses in training and 30 per cent more owners," he said.

As widely forecast, the Jockey Club yesterday announced much-needed changes to the whip rule which should prevent jockeys being banned *after thrilling finishes,* such as those in last season's 2,000 Guineas and St Leger.

The main change will see the welcome removal of the "trigger mechanism" which required stewards to consider holding an inquiry after a jockey hit a horse more than five times.

Christopher Hall, chairman of the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee, said the trigger *mechanism had caused difficulties* and its abolition would give stewards greater discretion.

He added: "Although the revised instruction represents a relaxation right at the bottom end of the scale, stewards have been asked to deal more strictly with serious breaches. Suspensions for excessive force will normally begin at a minimum of four days and, if they consider that a horse has been injured, the case is likely to be referred to Portman Square.

Vets will also be asked to examine all placed horses and *a random selection of other* runners after each race.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HAY DANCE
(3.50 Hereford)
Next best: Mighty Moss
(3.40 Uttoxeter)

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

11.45 Harlequin Walk. 12.15 Night Sceptre. 12.45 Zahid. 1.15 Threeplay. 1.45 Kings Harmony. 2.15 Father Dan. 2.45 Feather Bed. 3.15 **STAR TALENT** (nap).

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 11.45 Manabar.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

11.45 ATROPOS HANDICAP

(Div I: £1,179: 1m 2f) (14 runners)

1	0026	MANABAR 7 (G) M Polglase 4-10-0	T G McLaughlin 1
2	1505	BAKERS DAUGHTER 79 (CD,G) J Arnold 4-9-11	A Clark 12
3	1243	HARLEQUIN WALK 24 (B,C,G) R O'Sullivan 5-9-4	D Biggs 4
4	2-05	KEDWICK 24 (B) P Hedger 7-9-2	A McGlone 9
5	0520	THE FUGATIVE 31 P Mitchell 3-9-1	S Sanders 3
6	6050	BOSTON TEA PARTY 148 A Moore 3-8-11	C Rutter 6
7	0040	MEDLAND 17 (CD,F,G) B McMath 6-8-11	W Ryan 11
8	4000	SAPPHIRE SON 17 (C,G) P Clarke 4-8-9	Dane O'Neill 2
9	0003	*BELLATEENA 38 (D,F) H Collingridge 4-8-8*	J Quinn 7
10	0060	BOLD HABIT 57 (C,F,G) J Pearce 11-8-8	M Wigham 13
11	5030	KOMODO 15 J Long 4-8-6	T Field (7) 14
12	0000	GREAT BEAR 39 (F,G) D Chapman 4-8-3	D Wright 8
13	0432	TANIYAR 35 R Hollinshead 4-8-3	N Carlisle 10
14	0/0-	PREMIER STAR 707 K Wingrove 6-7-12	P McCabe (3) 5

7-2 Harlequin Walk, 9-2 Bakers Daughter, 5-1 Bellateena, Kedwick, 7-1 others.

12.15 SARAH CHAPMAN 21ST BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,437: 1m) (10)

1	0	FOXFORD LAD 86 T Jones 9-0	N Carlisle 7
2	000	FROST KING 97 Miss B Sanders 9-0	A Whelan (3) 1
3	0600	KINGSDOWN TRIX 79 A Moore 9-0	C Rutter 4
4	0	WARP DRIVE 13 W Muir 9-0	Dane O'Neill 2
5	0	ZIMIRI 105 J Toller 9-0	S Sanders 5
6	4000	HEVER GOLF MOVER 7 T Naughton 8-9	D Holland 9
7	0	*NIGHT SCEPTRE 48 R Armstrong 8-9*	A McGlone 10
8		PASTICHE T Mills 8-9	W Ryan 8
9	0	PRINCESS SARARA 20 M Prescott 8-9	C Nutter 6
10	600	TIROL'S TREASURE 118 K Ivory 8-9	C Scally 3

6-4 Night Sceptre, 4-1 Hever Golf Mover, Kingsdown Trix, Zimiri, 10-1 others.

12.45 HOTSPUR AMATEUR RIDERS LIMITED STAKES (£1,390: 1m 4f) (12)

1	0214	CROSS TALK 17 (F,G,S) R Strange 4-10-9	J Dewhurst (7) 12
2	430/	AL HAAL 10J R O'Sullivan 7-10-7	J Goldstein (7) 3
3	6-05	CAN CAN CHARLIE 7 (G,S) J Pearce 6-10-7	Mrs L Pearce 1
4	1256	CARROLLS MARC 297 (CD,F,G) C Murray 8-10-7	T McCarthy 2
5	0050	CHEZ CATALAN 84 (B,F,G) R Akehurst 5-10-7	K Goble (3) 10
6	0000	PHANAN 15 (C,D,F,G) R Peacock 10-10-7	Mrs C Peacock (7) 4
7	0604	SHERAZ 7 (G) N Tinkler 4-10-7	Miss P Jones 9
8	4255	STALLED 21 (CD,F,G,S) P Walwyn 6-10-7	Marchioness Blandford (5) 7
9	2003	ZAHID 7 (C,G) K Burke 5-10-7	M Rimell 8
10	5546	ZUNO FLYER 32J A Moore 4-10-7	Mrs A Perrett (7) 6
11	5300	ALISURA 83 D Thom 3-9-13	Miss J Feilden 5
12	0530	EFFICACIOUS 15 A Moore 3-9-13	Mrs J Moore (5) 11

7-2 Cross Talk, 4-1 Can Can Charlie, 11-2 Stalled, 6-1 Zahid, 10-1 others

1.15 WITCH OF ENDOR CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O: £1,529: 5f) (6)

1	1000	EAGER TO PLEASE 7 (C,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 9-3	D Holland 5
2	0526	THREEPLAY 7 J Akehurst 9-3	D Biggs 1
3	4350	HEAVENLY MISS 7 (F) J Bridger 8-12	S Sanders 3
4	0400	WHISPER LOW 24 R Hollinshead 8-6	W Ryan 6
5	6020	FIGLIA 34 (B,BF) J L Harris 8-0	J Quinn 2
6	2030	MELBOURNE PRINCESS 17 (V) R Whitaker 7-10	F Norton 4

9-4 Threeplay, 3-1 Figlia, 4-1 Eager To Please 5-1 Heavenly Miss, 8-1 others.

1.45 LE REVE HANDICAP (£2,801: 6f) (14)

1	6400	ROBO MAGIC 132 (E,CD,F,G) L M-Hall 4-10-0	M Wigham 9
2	0100	BOLD EFFORT 45 (B,CD,F,G,S) K C-Brown 4-9-13	W Ryan 2
3	6010	PRIMA SILK 24 (CD,F,G) M Ryan 5-9-8	A Clark 6
4	1622	KINGS HARMONY 24 (D,F,G) P Makin 3-9-8	D Holland 7
5	6011	SCISSOR RIDGE 15 (CD,F,G) J Bridger 4-9-6	S Sanders 12
6	0016	JO MAXIMUS 9 (D,F,G) S Dow 4-9-3	Dane O'Neill 10
7	0200	SHADOW JURY 28 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-3	A Culhane 8
8	0404	LIFT BOY 43 (C,D,F,G) A Moore 7-8-13	Candy Morris 11
9	021-	BOLD FRONTIER 615 (B,G) K Ivory 4-8-11	C Scally 5
10	0601	MIJAS 7 (CD,F,G) L Montague Hall 3-8-11 (7ex)	A McGlone 1
11	3314	*MADRINA 32 (BF,CD,G) J Berry 3-8-10*	P Fessey (5) 13
12	2025	STEP ON DEGAS 21 (BF,F) M F-Godley 3-8-6	M Dwyer (5) 3
13	0020	BEAU VENTURE 25 (D,F,G,S) B Palling 8-8-5	T Sprake 14
14	6300	SHARP IMP 92 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 6-8-3	J Quinn 4

4-1 Scissor Ridge, 5-1 Kings Harmony, 6-1 Mijas, 7-1 Bold Effort, 8-1 Prima Silk, Lift Boy, 10-1 Madrina, 12-1 others.

2.15 ATROPOS HANDICAP

(Div II: £1,179: 1m 2f) (14)

1	0032	FATHER DAN 7 (CD,BF,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 7-9-12	D Holland 2
2	1100	ARZANI 9 (CD,G) D Cosgrove 5-9-9	J Quinn 12
3	6030	BEN GUNN 9 (F,S) P Walwyn 4-9-8	T Sprake 9
4	0025	ILANDRA 15J R Akehurst 4-8-13	S Sanders 10
5	6001	SHANGHAI LIL 7 (C,G) M F-Godley 4-8-13 (5ex)	F Norton 14
6	2041	ABSOLUTELYSTUNNING 7 (CD,F,G) Mrs B Waring 3-8-11	P P Murphy (5) 6
7	0000	*ADILOV 28J J Bridger 4-8-8*	Dane O'Neill 1
8	0000	MEGA TID 181 (CD,G) B Pearce 4-8-7	D O'Shea 8
9	0440	PRINCE RUDOLF 134 (G) W G M Turner 4-8-6	S Drowne 11
10	5060	PREMIER LEAGUE 7 (D,G,S) J Long 6-8-5	Leesa Long 5
11	056-	FAIR ELLA 508 G L Moore 4-8-3	A Whelan (3) 3
12	0220	PARONOMASIA 17 J L Harris 4-8-3	D Biggs 4
13	0000	REEM FEVER 4J D Arbuthnot 3-8-1	C Rutter 13
14	0400	LAHIK 9 K Ivory 3-8-0	N Adams 7

3-1 Father Dan, 7-2 Absolutelystunning, 5-1 Arzani, 6-1 Ilandra, 7-1 Shanghai Lil, 8-1 Premier League, 10-1 others.

2.45 SARAH CHAPMAN 21ST BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,450: 1m) (10)

1	550	AROUND FORE ALLISS 85 T Mills 9-0	J Connolly (7) 6
2	0	JOLLY JACKSON 53 R Akehurst 9-0	S Sanders 10
3	3	ROFFEY SPINNEY 39 R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill 1
4	36	*CHYNNA 13 M Tompkins 8-9*	A Clark 8
5	4250	FEATHER BED 78 M Jarvis 8-9	D R McCabe 3
6	0	HEAVENLY HAND 35 A Moore 8-9	Candy Morris 5
7	6035	LOCHLASS 24 S Woods 8-9	W Ryan 4
8	00	SOURA 143 P Kelleway 8-9	M Wigham 2
9	000	TREVOR MITCHELL 15 J Bridger 8-9	Dane O'Neill 7
10	5	TROIA 160 B Smart 8-9	T Sprake 9

9-4 Roffey Spinney, 7-2 Soura, 4-1 Feather Bed, 5-1 Chynna, 8-1 Lochlass, Trevor Mitchell, 10-1 Around Fore Alliss, 12-1 others.

3.15 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,037: 7f) (16)

1	3004	BLUE FLYER 15 (B,C,D,F,G) R Ingram 3-10-0	A McGlone 15
2	2651	GREATEST 9 (B,CD,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-13 (6ex)	D Sweeney (5) 8
3	00-0	TOM MORGAN 43 (CD,F,G,S) P Walwyn 5-9-12	T Sprake 10
4	4501	THORDIS 56 (V,D,F,G) P Makin 3-9-12	S Sanders 16
5	1465	SPEEDY CLASSIC 36 (CD,BF,F) M Heaton-Ellis 7-9-9	A Clark 11
6	0115	DEEPLY VALE 24 (CD,F,G,S) E Wheeler 5-9-9	D R McCabe 12
7	0035	MILOS 43 (CD,F,G) T Naughton 5-9-8	D Holland 6
8	0442	STAR TALENT 9 (CD,F,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-7	Dane O'Neill 4
9	5014	PURPLE FLING 24 (D,F,G,S) L Cottrell 5-9-7	W Ryan 1
10	0201	ELITE HOPE 20 (D,G) N Tinkler 4-9-3	Jo Hunnam (5) 9
11	0316	SHONTAINE 7 (D,F,G) M Johnston 3-8-13	K Sked (7) 13
12	2540	FORT KNOX 108 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 5-8-11	D Biggs 2
13	0002	NEVER THINK TWICE 15 (B,F) K Ivory 3-8-6	N Adams 14
14	0035	*OUR SHADEE 9 (V,CD,F,G) K Ivory 6-8-6*	C Scally 7
15	5344	BARBASON 7 (CD,G) A Moore 4-8-6	Candy Morris 5
16	0040	CASTLEREA LAD 6 (BF,F,G) R Hollinshead 7-8-4	J Quinn 3

5-1 Greatest, 6-1 Purple Fling, 7-1 Star Talent, 8-1 Thordis, Milos, 9-1 Deeply Vale, 10-1 Our Shadee, Fort Knox, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hexham: 12.30 Calder King. 2.30 Nawtinookey. Hereford: 2.20 The Wayward Bishop. Lingfield Park: 1.15 Melbourne Princess. Uttoxeter: 2.10 Indian Sunset, Tathmin.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Towcester

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

12.40 (2m hdle) 1. Ambidextrous (L Cummins, 6-1); 2. Polo Pony (16-1); 3. Saymore (12-1). Kashan 7-4 fav. 15 ran. 9l, 1¼l. E Alston. Tote: £7.40; £1.70, £5.10, £3.10. DF: £75.40. Trio: £235.90. CSF: £96.62. Tricast: £1,046.26

1.10 (2m 6f ch) 1. Whattabob (M A Fitzgerald, 7-2); 2. Ramallah (10-1); 3. *Bridepark Rose* (10-1). Lively Knight 11-4 fav. 15 ran. NR: Halkopous. 3l, 2½l. N Henderson. Tote: £5.20; £2.70, £2.70, £3.60. DF: £25.30. Trio: £309.00. CSF: £43.91.

1.40 (2m 5f hdle) 1. Roberty Lea (P Niven, Evens fav); 2. Stac-Pollaidh (8-1); 3. Quiet Mistress (5-2). 11 ran. 19l, 17l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.90; £1.70, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £16.70. Trio: £5.70. CSF: £10.98

2.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1. Beatson (B Powell, 6-4 fav); 2. Jukee Jones (4-1); 3. Dr Rocket (100-30). 5 ran. NR: Man Mood. 19l, 8l. R Buckler. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £1.40. DF: £8.20. CSF: £7.96

2.40 (2m hdle) 1. Red Blazer (J Osborne, 9-4 fav); 2. Sprintfayre (12-1); 3. Ferrers (33-1). 16 ran. NR: Majestic Affair, Thirty Below. 12l, 3l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £4.10; £1.60, £2.00, £11.60. DF: £31.20. CSF: £34.12.

3.10 (3m 1f ch) 1. Price's Hill (C O'Dwyer, 4-1); 2. Ruler Mandate (5-2 jt-fav); 3. Coddington (11-1). Even Blue 5-2 jt-fav. 12 ran. 4l, sh hd. K Bailey. Tote: £4.70; £1.30, £2.40, £4.30. DF: £7.10. Trio: £52.60. CSF: £15.44. Tricast: £102.42

3.40 (2m flat) 1. Princeful (G Hogan, 7-2); 2. Billingsgate (7-1); 3. King Mole (7-1). Show Party 7-4 fav. 15 ran. 2l, 3l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £5.00; £1.70, £3.70, £2.10. DF: £21.30. Trio: £84.00. CSF: £32.82

Jackpot: £7,100.00.
Placepot: £163.30. Quadpot: £9.70.

Catterick Bridge

Going: soft

12.20 (2m 3f hdle) 1. King Pin (R Supple, 9-4 fav); 2. Lagen Bridge (5-1); 3. Major Harris (12-1). 17 ran. NR: Gallant Major, Mister Ross. 1l, 11l. P Beaumont. Tote: £3.00 [illegible] Ally (7-2). Springhill Quay 2-1 fav (pu). 10 ran. 6l, 5l. Mrs S Horner-Harker. Tote: £35.70; £9.60, £8.10, £1.10. DF: £179.00. Trio: £109.80. CSF: £463.09.

1.20 (2m hdle) 1. Fen Terrier (A Dobbin, 8-4); 2. Opera Fan (4-1); 3. I'm A Dreamer (7-2). Pangeran 7-4 fav. 5 ran. 5l, 10l. F Murtagh. Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £1.40. DF: £11.70. CSF: £11.17

1.50 (2m ch) 1. Twin Falls (J Callaghan, 13-8); 2. Port In A Storm (11-8 fav); 3. Positive Action (7-2). 4 ran. NR: Full O'Praise, The Minister. ¾l, dist. G Moore. Tote: £2.00. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.14.

2.20 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1. Pharare (A S Smith, 2-1 fav); 2. Smart Approach (4-1); 3. Italiefeltafails (3-1). 7 ran. NR: Ballindoo, Troodos. 1¾l, 18l. R Woodhouse. Tote: £2.40; £1.80, £1.70. DF: £4.40. Trio: £7.00. CSF: £10.27. Tricast: £21.07

2.50 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1. Heavenly Citizen (B Storey, 16-1); 2. Kenmore-Speed (13-8 fav); 3. Sparrow Hall (9-2). 6 ran. NR: Gale Ahead, Pats Minstrel. 8l, 14l. J Gledson. Tote: £26.80; £7.80, £3.50. DF: £18.10. CSF: £42.57. Tricast: £132.72.

3.20 (2m flat) 1. Point Reyes (N Horrocks, 2-1 fav); 2. Nilaaf (10-1); 3. Haridecent (9-4). 13 ran. NR: Miss Fortina. Sh hd, sh hd. C Thornton. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £3.90, £1.50. DF: £9.40. Trio: £24.70. CSF: £22.82.

Placepot: £246.70. Quadpot: £11.00.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.00 (6f) 1. Marjorie Rose (D Wright, 13-2); 2. Snashi (11-2); 3. Ultra Beat (12-1). Primula Bairn 9-4 fav. 13 ran. 1l, 1¾l. A Bailey. Tote: £6.80; £1.80, £2.50, £5.20. DF: £22.50. Trio: £33.20. CSF: £36.63

1.30 (1m 100yd) 1. Three Weeks (Dane O'Neill, 7-4 fav); 2. Finisterre (20-1); 3. Yeoman Oliver (20-1). 13 ran. 2½l, 6l. W Muir. Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £3.20, £4.40. DF: £43.90. Trio: £208.50. CSF: £36.36. Tricast: £544.59

2.00 (6f) 1. Mr Frosty (S Sanders, 11-2); 2. Chadwell Hall (4-1); 3. The Happy Fox (8-1). 12 ran. NR: Khatta. Hd, 3l. W Jarvis. Tote: £6.60; £2.60, £1.70, £1.50. DF: £20.60. Trio: £58.90. CSF: £28.98.

2.30 (7f) 1. Leigh Crofter (R Hughes, 7-4 fav);

3.00 (7f) 1. Nomore Mr Niceguy (A Culhane, 10-1); 2. Effervescence (7-1); 3. Milroy (8-1). Double-O 6-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Amico. 2½l, 3l. E Alston. Tote: £11.20; £3.00, £1.60, £2.90. DF: £19.20. Trio: £32.40. CSF: £70.72. Tricast: £539.15

3.30 (6f) 1. Master Foley (T G McLaughlin, 11-1); 2. Terry's Rose (16-1); 3. Will To Win (12-1). Lightning Bolt Evens fav. 13 ran. 7l, ¾l. N Littmoden. Tote: £15.30; £3.50, £3.60, £3.00. DF: £144.50. Trio: £247.70. CSF: £155.80.

4.00 (1m 4f) 1. Raaayel (Mr W McLaughlin, 10-1); 2. Colosse (4-1 jt-fav); 3. Golden Hadeer (11-2). Kinnescash 4-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. Hd, 5l. P Evans. Tote: £10.10; £1.10, £1.10, £3.20. DF: £21.90. Trio: £53.70. CSF: £54.70. Tricast: £240.16.

4.30 (7f) 1. Quinzii Martin (S Drowne, 12-1); 2. Monis (14-1); 3. See Danzig (8-1). Running Green 9-4 fav. 12 ran. 1¾l, hd. D Haydn Jones. Tote: £11.70; £2.20, £3.10, £3.70. DF: £41.70. Trio: £67.70. CSF: £159.92. Tricast: £1,334.67.

Placepot: £1,102.00. Quadpot: £220.50.

SPECIALISTS

HEREFORD: Trainers: C Mann, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; M Pipe, 33 from 101, 32.7%; N Twiston-Davies, 26 from 88, 29.5%; P Hobbs, 14 from 50, 28.0%. Jockeys: T J Murphy, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%; A P McCoy, 19 from 67, 28.4%; R Massey, 4 from 20, 20.0%; J Osborne, 6 from 32, 18.8%.

HEXHAM: Trainers: J J Quinn, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; T Carr, 5 from 18, 27.8%; L Lungo, 21 from 77, 27.3%; B Ellison, 6 from 24, 25.0%. Jockeys: N Bentley, 11 winners from 44 rides, 25.0%; P Niven, 19 from 81, 23.5%; A Dobbin, 23 from 100, 23.0%; T Reed, 19 from 98, 19.4%.

LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: M Prescott, 19 winners from 89 runners, 21.3%; R Armstrong, 11 from 60, 18.3%; L Cottrell, 5 from 28, 17.9%; M Johnston, 40 from 239, 16.7%; T Mills, 7 from 42, 16.7%. Jockeys: W Ryan,

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

12.50 Supreme Charm. 1.20 Daunt. 1.50 Urban Lily. 2.20 Ashmead Rambler. 2.50 Fleet Cadet. 3.20 Brogeen Lady. 3.50 Hay Dance.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.50 THYME MAIDEN HURDLE

(Div I: £2,192: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

101	0-0	AQUA AMBER 36 J Bradley 4-11-5		–
102	01-3	BRAMLEY MAY 195 (F) T George 6-11-5	A P McCoy	93
103	3003	DRAKESTONE 13 R Brown 5-11-5	Mr R Thornton (5)	95
104	0	FROME LAD 65 W G M Turner 4-11-5	J Power (7)	–
105	45	KING RAT 57 (V) J O'Shea 5-11-5	Michael Brennan (5)	90
106	31/	LASTO ADREE 594 (F) G Thorner 5-11-5	B Powell	–
107	00	MR HEMP 15 A Foster 4-11-5	D Byrne	–
108	4	NIGHT CITY 15 Lady Herries 5-11-5	J Osborne	91
109	63	STAR SELECTION 20 J Mackie 5-11-5	E Husband (3)	[illegible]
110	114	SUPREME CHARM 28 (G) K Bailey 4-11-5	C O'Dwyer	96
111	0-PP	WOODLANDS LAD TOO 10 P Pritchard 4-11-5	R Bellamy	–
112	60-P	AMAZON HEIGHTS 7 L Grassick 4-11-0	G Hogan (3)	–
113	0-6P	SHADY EMMA 42 F Jordan 4-11-0	S Wynne	–

3-1 Night City, 4-1 Supreme Charm, 9-2 Lasto Adree, 6-1 Bramley May, 7-1 Drakestone, 8-1 Star Selection, 10-1 others

1.20 THYME MAIDEN HURDLE

(Div II: £2,178: 2m 1f) (12)

201		DAUNT 69F F Jordan 4-11-5	A P McCoy	–
202	P-63	EUROLINK SHADOW 41 (B) D McCain 4-11-5	D Walsh	83
203	03	FAIRY KNIGHT 15 R Hannon 4-11-5	N Williamson	[illegible]
204		IT'STHEBUSINESS 73F M Sheppard 4-11-5	B Powell	–
205	0	KEVASINGO 13 J Spearing 4-11-5	T J Murphy	–
206	-630	MILLING BROOK 21 J Bradley 4-11-5		73
207	006	NAAUZAL 48 K Bridgwater 4-11-5	R Massey (3)	–
208		RED PHANTOM 34F S Mellor 4-11-5	N Mann	–
209	0P	ROYRACE 11 W Brisbourne 4-11-5	S Wynne	–
210		TANTARA LODGE K Bailey 5-11-5	C O'Dwyer	–
211	3-5	*TOTAL JOY 10 C Mann 5-11-5*	J Railton	91
212	321-	MID DAY CHASER 293 (F,G) P Webber 5-11-0	J Osborne	–

5-4 Daunt, 4-1 Mid Day Chaser, 7-1 Tantara Lodge, Fairy Knight, 10-1 others.

1.50 CLOVES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,087: 2m 3f 110yd) (9)

301	P45-	MAHLER 238 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10	D Walsh (3)	96
302	-1U1	URBAN LILY 10 (B,D,G,S) R Hodges 6-11-7 (7ex)	J Harris (10)	93
303	3-61	COLWALL 11 (F) Miss P Whittle 5-11-0 (7ex)	K Hibbert (10)	[illegible]
304	6342	TIME LEADER 14 (BF) R Dickin 4-10-9	X Aizpuru (10)	94
305	F-F0	LYPHARD'S FABLE 21 T George 5-10-4	C Hynes (10)	–
306	/00	ECU DE FRANCE 27 P Ritchens 6-10-0	Michael Brennan (3)	–
307	-0P0	THE CHEESE BARON 11 S Mellor 5-10-0	S Hearn (10)	80
308	PP-0	ANALOGUE 14 R Eckley 4-10-0	D J Kavanagh (5)	89
309	5-05	MADAM ROSE 14 J Mullins 6-10-0	David Turner (10)	80

7-4 Urban Lily, 3-1 Mahler, 4-1 Colwall, 9-2 Time Leader, 8-1 Lyphard's Fable, 12-1 The Cheese Baron, 14-1 others.

2.20 CARAWAY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,996: 2m) (11)

401	3121	SCOTTISH BAMBI 11 (CD,F,S) P Webber 8-12-6 (7ex)	J Osborne	90
402	25-P	IL BAMBINO 18 (G,S) H Manners 8-11-6	Mr A Charles-Jones	–
403	-655	BOLD ACRE 16 (S) J Bradley 6-10-12		84
404	546U	*SAN DIEGO CHARGER 8 (F) A Barrow 5-10-5*	Mr R Thornton (5)	–
405	P02-	DUNNICKS VIEW 268 F Tucker 7-10-2	G Upton	[illegible]
406	16-3	NORTHERN SINGER 30 (G) R Hodges 6-10-2	T Dascombe (3)	94
407	-F2C	ASHMEAD RAMBLER 30 P Hobbs 6-10-0	C Maude	85
408	P2PP	CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 14 P Wegmann 9-10-0	S Wynne	90
409	PP-P	CARACOL 18 (G,S) J Neville 7-10-0	G Hogan (3)	–
410	U-0U	THE WAYWARD BISHOP 23 (B) Mrs Taylor 7-10-0	D O'Connor (7)	–
411	P/	PANDORA'S PRIZE 1197 (S) J Spearing 10-10-0	T J Murphy	–

6-4 Scottish Bambi, 4-1 Ashmead Rambler, 5-1 Il Bambino, 7-1 Northern Singer, 8-1 Dunnicks View, 10-1 Bold Acre, 12-1 others.

2.50 COWSLIP SELLING HURDLE (£2,052: 2m 1f) (13)

501	0/P-	APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE 558 (F,G) K Warner 9-11-12	J Ryan	–
502	12-U	HALHAM TARN 7 (S) H Manners 6-11-5	A Dowling (7)	–
503	106-	LAJADHAL 382 (F) K Bishop 7-11-5	L Harvey	98
504	0-40	SCOTTISH WEDDING 21 (D,S) T Wall 8-11-0	R Massey (3)	89
505	-P00	BOLD CHARLIE 20 S Mellor 4-10-12	N Mann	–
506	48	COMEONUP 8 J Bradley 5-10-12		86
507	2241	FLEET CADET 9 (V,S) M Pipe 5-10-12	A P McCoy	[illegible]
508	0/	MY MAN IN DUNDALK 1000 B Curley 7-10-12	E Murphy	–
509	50/	NORDIC FLIGHT 632 R Eckley 8-10-12	D J Kavanagh (5)	–
510	0	STEVIE'S WONDER 13 B Llewellyn 6-10-12	Mr J L Llewellyn	–
511	3R4R	TIBBS INN 18 (B) A Barrow 7-10-12	Mr R Thornton (5)	76
512	P0P	PERSIAN BUTTERFLY 9 R Stronge 4-10-7	D Walsh	79
513	00PP	WOODLANDS ENERGY 10 P Pritchard 5-10-7	R Bellamy	83

6-4 Fleet Cadet, 4-1 My Man In Dundalk, 5-1 Halham Tarn, 7-1 Scottish Wedding, 8-1 Bold Charlie, 10-1 Lajadhal, Tibbs Inn, 12-1 others

3.20 COMFREY MAIDEN CHASE

(£3,200: 3m 1f 110yd) (16)

601	/0-3	ANYTHINGYOULIKE 29 (S) C Smith 7-11-5	M Richards	75
602	40P3	DUSTYS TRAIL 105 (F,S) P Bowen 7-11-5	D Walsh	63
603	80	GREENFIELD GEORGE 18 P Hobbs 5-11-5	N Williamson	–
604	521-	INDIAN TRACKER 277 (S) M Pipe 6-11-5	C Maude	–
605	4	JOLLY BOAT 14 (F,G,S) F Jordan 9-11-5	J R Kavanagh	76
606	U-F	LANGTON PARMILL 16 W G M Turner 11-11-5	N Willmington (7)	–
607	3403	LORD NITROGEN 36 B Llewellyn 6-11-5	S Curran	80
608	F-2U	MOUNT SERRATH 10 C Egerton 8-11-5	J Osborne	96
609		MR LOVELY J Neville 5-11-5	T Dascombe (3)	–
610	0-0F	RAMSTOWN LAD 4 K Bailey 7-11-5	C O'Dwyer	75
611	/0F	SAUCY'S WOLF 13 N Hawke 6-11-5	L Harvey	–
612	0	*THUNDER ROAD 41 R Dickin 5-11-5*	B Powell	–
613	5-	WANDERING LIGHT 412 T Forster 7-11-5	S Wynne	–
614	4-P	APATURA HATI 16 (G,S) R Alner 7-11-0	Mr R Thornton (5)	–
615	20-4	BROGEEN LADY 13 D Gandolfo 6-11-0		[illegible]
616	3-PP	RAINBOW FOUNTAIN 27 (G) N Lampard 9-11-0	Mr A Kinane	–

7-2 Indian Tracker, 5-1 Mount Serrath, 6-1 Brogeen Lady, Ramstown Lad, 8-1 Wandering Light, Anythingyoulike, 10-1 Greenfield George, 12-1 others

3.50 ROSEMARY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,857: 2m 1f) (8)

1	6432	ROBERT'S TOY 33 (D,F,G) M Pipe 5-12-0	A P McCoy	96
2	-123	WADADA 8 (F,G) D Burchell 5-11-5	D J Burchell	94
3	/50-	RIVER ISLAND 377 (D,S) J Old 8-11-2	E Greehy (7)	92
4	6-40	NASHVILLE STAR 13 (V,D,F,G) R Mathew 5-10-13	R Bellamy	90
5	3122	SAILEP 15 (D,S) R Hodges 4-10-13	T Dascombe (3)	91
6	4312	HAY DANCE 13 (D,F,G) P Hobbs 5-10-11	N Williamson	94
7	P0-P	ETHBAAT 20 M Heaton-Ellis 5-10-3	M Richards	92
8	-140	[illegible] 13 (G) D Gandolfo 6-10-1		

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

12.30 Qattara. 1.00 Swanbister. 1.30 Sireric. 2.00 Kemo Sabo. 2.30 Yacht Club. 3.00 Westwell Boy. 3.30 First Light.

GOING: SOFT SIS

12.30 MINCE PIE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,700: 2m) (13 runners)

1	21	DANA POINT 18 (D,G) Mrs S Smith 4-11-5	R Wilkinson (7)
2	0P1-	ROBARA 209 (C,F) S Leadbetter 6-11-5	N Leach
3	P	CAIRO PRINCE 13 J J O'Neill 6-10-12	A Roche
4	6-5	CALDER KING 18 (B) J Eyre 5-10-12	B Storey
5	2-52	FASSAN 13 M Hammond 4-10-12	R Garritty
6		MAFTUN 64F G Moore 4-10-12	J Callaghan
7	0-	POSTED ABROAD 391 J H Johnson 4-10-12	A Dobbin
8	0-53	QATTARA 17 (G) W McKeown 6-10-12	G Cahill
9	0P-P	RUSTIC WARRIOR 38 J Wade 6-10-12	K Jones
10	6U	STAR MASTER 13 L Lungo 5-10-12	P Niven
11	00/	ELASTIC 671 (G,S) R Cockburn 10-10-7	L O'Hara
12	0	GUILE POINT 23 D Lamb 5-10-7	J Burke
13	05-	STORM CALL 286 D Whillans 5-10-7	D Bentley

5-2 Dana Point, 3-1 Fassan, 6-1 Star Master, 7-1 Qattara, 10-1 Calder King, Robara, Maftun, 12-1 Cairo Prince, 20-1 others.

1.00 HOLLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,805: 3m) (16)

1	P1-0	KINGS LANE 9 (C,G) J Dun 7-11-5	Mr M H Naughton (5)
2	-241	PAPERISING 10 (G) G Richards 4-11-5	A Dobbin
3	-133	PEBBLE BEACH 39 (F) G Moore 6-11-5	J Callaghan
4	1-U2	*SWANBISTER 20 (C,G,S) L Lungo 6-11-5*	*R Garritty*
5	00P-	BARNEY RUBBLE 258P (G,S) D Whillans 11-10-12	D Bentley
6	-PP0	BOSTON MAN 17 R Woodhouse 5-10-12	B Storey
7	4-20	CLOVGOUR 20 F Murphy 6-10-12	K Whelan
8	22-P	CRAGNABUOY 20 W Reed 6-10-12	T Reed
9	2-0	CRASHBALLOO 18 P Cheesbrough 5-10-12	A S Smith
10	-4P6	FARMERS SUBSIDY 16 G Moore 4-10-12	N Bentley
11	6	GLENBOWER 20 M Hammond 4-10-12	Mr C Bonner (3)
12	3-40	OLD CAVALIER 14 J J O'Neill 5-10-12	P Niven
13	00	SAMITE 17 S Leadbetter 5-10-12	N Leach
14	/60	SOUTH COAST STAR 20 J H Johnson 6-10-12	G F Ryan
15	0-06	MY MISSILE 9 R Cockburn 6-10-7	L O'Hara
16	000	TOSHIBA HOUSE 7 B Ellison 5-10-7	G Cahill

2-1 Paperising, 5-1 Swanbister, 6-1 Pebble Beach, 8-1 Glenbower, 10-1 Clovgour, 14-1 Crashballoo, 16-1 Old Cavalier, 20-1 others

1.30 ROAST TURKEY NOVICES CHASE

(£3,234: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1	-P61	ELLIOTT'S WISH 23 (C,G) H Johnson 5-11-5	A Dobbin
2	4243	BOLD ACCOUNT 9 (G) G Moore 6-10-12	N Bentley
3	4F43	BONNY JOHNNY 9 D Moffatt 6-10-12	D J Moffatt
4	21-F	CELTIC GIANT 4 (BF,S) L Lungo 6-10-12	R Garritty
5	/F0-	FIVE FLAGS 275 (F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 8-10-12	R Wilkinson (7)
6	/35-	LIEN DE FAMILLE 391 (F,S) J Quinn 6-10-12	P Niven
7	2403	ROYAL SURPRISE 17 (B,S) W Reed 9-10-12	T Reed
8	00-0	SIRERIC 13 (S) S Bell 6-10-12	K Johnson
9	2U-P	*WORLD WITHOUT END 10 (S) M Sowersby 7-10-12*	*D Parker*

9-4 Lien de Famille, 11-4 Celtic Giant, 3-1 Bold Account, 8-1 Bonny Johnny, Elliott's Wish, 10-1 Royal Surprise, 12-1 Five Flags, 25-1 others.

2.00 ST NICHOLAS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,259: 2m) (8)

1	F2FF	HIGHLAND WAY 11 (CD,G) M Todhunter 8-12-0	A S Smith
2	P-21	*KEMO SABO 17 (D,G) C Parker 4-11-11*	*D Parker*
3	6F0-	BRUMON 286 (B) D Moffatt 5-11-7	D J Moffatt
4	0-64	INNOCENT GEORGE 14 (F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-11-7	A Dobbin
5	02-3	HERE COMES HERBIE 113 W Storey 4-11-3	M Moloney
6	0050	SEGALA 14 J J O'Neill 5-11-2	P Niven
7	5-00	*FAMILIAR ART 16 (CD,G,S) D Moffatt 5-10-8*	R Garritty
8	034R	TASHREEF 16 (B,CD,F,S) J Bidett 6-10-5	B Storey

7-4 Kemo Sabo 9-2 Highland Way 5-1 Here Comes Herbie, 6-1 Familiar Art, 7-1 Innocent George 8-1 Brumon 10-1 Segala, 12-1 others

2.30 CHRISTMAS BARGAIN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,725: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1	P0-6	PRECIPICE RUN 16 (C,D,G,S) J Birkett 11-11-10	G Cahill
2	6034	BLANC SEING 9 (B) J Swiers 9-11-3	F Leahy
3	3-00	CORBLEU 13 S Bell 6-11-2	E Callaghan
4	54U5	*YACHT CLUB 11 (CD,F) J Eyre 14-10-9*	*C Elliott (5)*
5	6044	THARSIS 11 (D,F,G) W Smith 11-10-7	S Taylor
6	00-2	DASHMAR 23 Ms L Plater 9-10-7	D Parker
7	-F0P	CIRCLE BOY 4 W Storey 9-10-6	R McGrath
8	P-5F	NAWTINOOKEY 27 (B) M Todhunter 5-10-2	C McCormack (5)
9	000-	MR SLOAN 371 J Goldie 6-10-0	G Lee
10	P/P	TOUGH CHARACTER 14 M Sowersby 8-10-0	N Horrocks (3)

3-1 Blanc Seing, 7-2 Yacht Club, 4-1 Dashmar, 5-1 Tharsis, 7-1 Nawtinookey, 8-1 Corbleu, 12-1 others

3.00 SANTA CLAUS HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,070: 3m 1f) (8)

1	-363	PATS MINSTREL 8 (F,G,S) R Champion 11-12-0	A Dobbin
2	1-23	WESTWELL BOY 18 (CD,F,G) P Beaumont 10-11-13	R Supple
3	6/2	ROAD BY THE RIVER 20 (G,S) P Cheesbrough 8-11-3	B Storey
4	P13P	*JENDEE 38 (F,S) B Ellison 8-10-8*	*Mr C Bonner (3)*
5	1-P6	HURRICANE ANDREW 23 (CD,F,G,S) J Moore 8-10-6	N Smith
6	2U03	OFF THE BRU 18 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-10-5	Mr M Bradburne (7)
7	0P06	GALA WATER 18 (CD,F,S) T Dun 10-10-4	T Reed
8	45-P	SNOOK POINT 18 (G) D Lamb 9-10-0	J Burke

2-1 Westwell Boy, 5-2 Road By The River, 6-1 Pats Minstrel, Jendee, 8-1 others

3.30 LEVY BOARD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,406: 2m) (19)

1		BANNER YEAR T Carr 5-11-4	N Smith
2	3	BOBBY GRANT 23 C Grant 5-11-4	P Niven
3	3-	DERANNIE 292 G Richards 4-11-4	A Dobbin
4	22	FIRST LIGHT 28 J Quinn 4-11-4	R Garritty
5		HOUSELOPE SPRING H Johnson 4-11-4	G F Ryan (5)
6		JOHNNEYS SPIRIT R Cockburn 4-11-4	L O'Hara
7	0	MAGPIE MELODY 39 L Lungo 5-11-4	–
8		MONTEIN S Leadbetter 5-11-4	N Leach
9	0	QUEENS BRIGADE 23 F Watson 4-11-4	B Storey
10		ROMAN OUTLAW M Hammond 4-11-4	D Bentley
11		ROYAL SPRUCE G Moore 5-11-4	J Callaghan
12	02-	SIR BOB 288 W McKeown 4-11-4	G Cahill
13		SNOOTY ESKIMO J Haldane 4-11-4	A S Smith
14	0	TEELIN BAY 34 C Parker 4-11-4	D Parker
15		THE BURGLAR R Goldie 4-11-4	R Supple
16	0	TOP ACE 17 G Whale 4-11-4	Mr A Robson
17	00-0	ALAN'S PRIDE 17 W McKeown 5-10-13	

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

1.10 Moving Out
1.40 Take The Buckskin
2.10 How Could-I
2.40 Native Mission
3.10 Bossymoss
3.40 Mighty Moss

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 **AGISTMENT.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.10 **OCEAN LEADER** (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING. SOFT SIS

1.10 STREBEL BOILERS & RADIATORS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,550: 2m) (8 runners)

1	0461/24-	MOVING OUT 427 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Bracher) Miss H Knight 8-11-10	Mr A Wintle (7)	90
2	01100-0	MASTER TRIBE 21 (D,G,S) (Jebel Ali) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-9	W Marston	[illegible]
3	523P-52	ALBEMINE 10 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Cecil) Mrs J Cecil 7-11-8	DOUBTFUL	[illegible]
4	14P-45	MR BUREAUCRAT 13 (CD,F) (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 7-11-6	R Johnson	93
5	4U053-1	MOST EQUAL 10 (D,F,S) (H Kirpalani) M Pipe 6-11-4 (5ex)	R Hughes	95
6	05204-4	TEJANO GOLD 34 (D,G,S) (P Bradley) P Bradley 6-11-0	R Dunwoody	96
7	1065-21	SAINT CIEL 30 (CD,G,S) (Tam Racing) F Jordan 8-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	90
8	1322/2-6	EUROLINK THE LAD 10 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Stockton) D Burchell 9-10-9	D J Burchell	98

BETTING: 11-4 Most Equal, 100-30 Saint Ciel, 4-1 Tejano Gold, 13-2 Moving Out, 7-1 Mr Bureaucrat, 12-1 Eurolink The Lad, 14-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

MOVING OUT beat Ext neck in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good to firm). MASTER TRIBE 28l 10th of 15 to Tragic Hero in grade II Seagram Novices Hurdle at Aintree (2m ½f, good). ALBEMINE 28l 5th of 7 to Temein in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m ½f, good to soft). MOST EQUAL beat ALBEMINE (5lb better off) ¾l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m ½f, good to soft).
SAINT CIEL beat Circus Line 1¾l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). EUROLINK THE LAD 4l 2nd of 6 to Distant Echo in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good).
Selection: MOST EQUAL

1.40 LEFLEY'S HOG ROAST NOVICES CHASE

£3,826: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1	2/1041-1	OBAN 33 (G,S) (Lord Hartington) Miss H Knight 6-11-6	G Bradley	[illegible]
2	21/	MAJOR LOOK 590 (C,F) (Mrs H Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-11-4	R Johnson	–
3	3FP/32	SUNSET AND VINE 11 (G,S) (C Fremm) T Casey 9-11-0	R Dunwoody	89
4	/4112-3	*TAKE THE BUCKSKIN 20 (F,G,S) (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 9-11-0*	*M A Fitzgerald*	90
5	2021-4F	THURSDAY NIGHT 14 (S) (R Haggas) J Fitzgerald 5-11-0	A Thornton	–
6	022-6U3	ZAITOON 14 (F,G) (Cheltenham Racing) D Nicholson 5-11-0	A Maguire	85
7	0/0-522	SLIPMATIC 18 (P Sims) A Turnell 7-10-9	S McNeill	–

BETTING: 5-2 Oban, 7-2 Take The Buckskin, 5-1 Sunset And Vine, 6-1 Thursday Night, Zaitoon, 7-1 Slipmatic, 10-1 Major Look

FORM FOCUS

OBAN beat Headwind short-head in 7-runner amateurs novices hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good to soft). MAJOR LOOK beat Fiftysevenchannels 5l in 8-runner novices hunter chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm). SUNSET AND VINE 11l 2nd of 5 to Greenback in novice chase at Folkestone (2m, good to soft). TAKE THE BUCKSKIN beat Ballyea Boy 7l in 20-runner novice hurdle at Nottingham (3m ½f, good to soft). THURSDAY NIGHT beat Potter's Bay ¾l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft). SLIPMATIC short-head 2nd of 8 to Dream Leader in handicap hurdle at Windsor (3m 4f, good).
Selection: THURSDAY NIGHT

2.10 BURTON ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB JUVENILE NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,026: 2m) (16 runners)

1	0F	APPEAL AGAIN 22 (T Brooks) D Burchell 10-10	Guy Lewis (3)	–
2	040	BOY BLAKENEY 20 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 10-10	R Guest	90
3	F	COME ON IN 30 (Mrs C Dickin) R Dickin 10-10	C Llewellyn	–
4	0	INDIAN SUNSET 114 (B) (C Egerton) C Egerton 10-10	J A McCarthy	–
5	BP	NORDIC HERO 32 (L Fust) A James 10-10	C Davies (7)	–
6	0	*NORTHERN DIAMOND 16 (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 10-10*	*Gary Lyons*	–
7	P4	PAULTON 30 (Business Forms Express) K Bishop 10-10	R Greene	–
8		REBOUNDER 171F (Mrs R Damers) D ffrench Davis 10-10	J Magee (3)	–
9	53	STONECUTTER 18 (V) (Miss S Debenalle) M Channon 10-10	R Hughes	97
10	0	TATHMIN 16 (V) (Miss J Bodycote) J Bosley 10-10	M Bosley	88
11	U6	ARCH ANGEL 7 (P Walford) G Charles-Jones 10-5	D Bridgwater	78
12	3	FLASH IN THE PAN 45 (Mrs V Goodman) J Moore 10-5	W McFarland	[illegible]
13	20363	HOW COULD-I 48 (B) (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 10-5	A Thornton	92
14	300	LEBEDINSKI 34 (V) (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 10-5	R Marley	88
15	0	NANTGARW 22 (Caerphilly Supplies) D Burchell 10-5	J Prior (7)	–
16	4	SPIRAL FLYER 8 (M Thurgood) M Usher 10-5	W Marston	95

BETTING: 5-2 Stonecutter, 7-2 Spiral Flyer 5-1 How Could-I 7-1 Flash In The Pan, 8-1 Arch Angel, Lebedinski, 14-1 others

FORM FOCUS

BOY BLAKENEY 11l 4th of 21 to Peter Monamy in a selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) with NORDIC HERO pulled up 2 out and ARCH ANGEL unseated rider 1st.
STONECUTTER 11l 3rd of 9 to Lady Magnum in a claiming juvenile hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). FLASH IN THE PAN 2½l 3rd of 9 to Stone Island in a selling juvenile hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with PAULTON PULLED up 6th. HOW COULD I 4¾l 3rd of 15 to Indira in a selling juvenile hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm) with LEBEDINSKI 24l 7th. LEBEDINSKI 7l 3rd of 8 to Sheath Kefaah in a juvenile hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm) with INDIAN SUNSET tailed off 7th.
Selection: HOW COULD I

2.40 ST MODWEN CHASE

(Limited handicap: £4,449: 2m) (4 runners)

1	3/2061-3	RANDOM ASSAULT 18 (D) (Random Lot) D Nicholson 7-11-7	A Maguire	88
2	6/144P/	NATIVE MISSION 605 (D,G,S) (G Shouler) J Fitzgerald 9-11-7	R Dunwoody	–
3	44413-1	MISTER ODDY 18 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Hill) J King 10-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
4	31-2114	SUPER TACTICS 30 (D,G,S) (H Perry) R Alner 8-11-3	P Henley (3)	89

BETTING: 6-4 Mister Oddy 9-4 Native Mission 5-2 Random Assault 7-1 Super Tactics

FORM FOCUS

NATIVE MISSION 4¾l 4th of 12 to Coulton in grade II Martell Aintree Chase (2m, good to firm). MISTER ODDY beat Thumbs Up 6l in 6-runner handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good to soft) with RANDOM HARVEST (3lb better off) 6l 3rd. SUPER TACTICS beat Merry Panto 1¾l in 5-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good).
Selection: MISTER ODDY

3.10 ALAN POVEY SIGNS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,022: 3m 2f) (12 runners)

1	5/22P-1	OCEAN LEADER 16 (F,G) (P Gibbings) Mrs D Haine 9-11-10	A Maguire	96
2	F105-P6	DOMINIE 42 (B,G,S) (A Heyes) K Bailey 8-11-5	C Llewellyn	–
3	313246	GEORGE ASHFORD 71 (F,G) (P Johnson) P Johnson 6-11-4	M Sharratt	92
4	0/12F0/	OATS N BARLEY 629 (G) (F Landingan) P Rodford 7-11-3	S Burrough	–
5	0333/1P	GRIFFINS BAR 14 (G) (M Smith) Mrs P Sly 6-11-0	R Marley	97
6	103/32U	COVERDALE LANE 14 (S) (J Pilkington) Mrs S Smith 9-10-11	Mr P Murray	[illegible]
7	0U63-54	MAJORS LEGACY 14 (Mrs G Leigh) T Forster 7-10-10	A Thornton	98
8	43010-P	BE BRAVE 18 (S) (Mrs S Parsons) T Etherington 6-10-7	R Rourke	–
9	/U04-U5	THE BRUD 23 (Mrs J Bishop) O Sherwood 8-10-5	J A McCarthy	85
10	P612-4F	BOSSYMOSS 14 (F) (Mrs M James) A Streeter 7-10-0	T Eley	94
11	0/000-UU	ROMANY BLUES 11 (Harry Sibley) C Brooks 7-10-0	D Gallagher	–
12	P0P0-F	RAGGED KINGDOM 14 (Mrs R Snow) C Egerton 7-10-0	L Aspell (3)	–

Long handicap: Bossymoss 9-13 Romany Blues 9-5, Ragged Kingdom 9-3

BETTING: 5-2 Ocean Leader 3-1 Coverdale Lane, 7-1 Majors Legacy, 8-1 Bossymoss, Griffins Bar, 10-1 George Ashford, 12-1 others

FORM FOCUS

OCEAN LEADER beat Record Lover 3l in 8-runner novices handicap chase at Southwell (3m 110yd, good). GEORGE ASHFORD 4l 2nd of 7 to The Gallopin'major in novices handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 3f, good to firm). GRIFFINS BAR beat Westwell Boy 3½l in 10-runner handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good). MAJORS LEGACY 4l 4th of 15 to Ceridwen in novices handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with COVERDALE LAD unseated rider 2 out. BOSSYMOSS fell last and RAGGED KINGDOM fell 1st. BE BRAVE beat Shepherds Rest 4l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, soft). BOSSYMOSS 4½l 4th of 8 to Dream Leader in novices handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f good).
Selection: MAJORS LEGACY

3.40 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Qualifier: £2,537: 2m 4f 110yd) (15 runners)

1	1/161-1	AGISTMENT 20 (G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J Fitzgerald 5-11-10	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
2	246-311	BEGGARS BANQUET 17 (D,F,S) (E Ruddock) P Beaumont 6-11-10	B Grattan (7)	96
3	1233-11	MIGHTY MOSS 23 (D,G,S) (K Hulsby) D Nicholson 5-11-10	Mr F Hutsby (7)	92
4	53-1F	*SHARE OPTIONS 13 (D,BF,F) (S Hammond) T Easterby 5-11-10*	A Maguire	72
5	001/30-3	AUT EVEN 18 (G) (Duchess Of Westminster) T Forster 6-11-0	A Thornton	86
6	5/1-53	BARTON WARD 13 (G) (Mrs H Clarke) S Brookshaw 5-11-0	R Johnson	73
7	0005-P0	BLACK STATEMENT 8 (B Naylor) A James 6-11-0	L Aspell (3)	55
8	0	CHATERGOLD 21 (A Turnbull) A James 4-11-0	C Davies (7)	–
9	103-	COLONEL BLAZER 254 (G) (T Shrimpton) Miss H Knight 4-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	–
10	6	COOLE CHERRY 28 (Mrs L Field) C Barwell 6-11-0	B Fenton	50
11	05P-2P	MARKET MAYHEM 6 (A Cadoret) J Spearing 6-11-0	R Guest	78
12	6	MINSTER BOY 14 (Mrs I Wittford) J Leigh 5-11-0	C Llewellyn	–
13	005-	SEABROOK LAD 241 (Seabrook Partners) M Wilkinson 5-11-0	I Lawrence	–
14	44650-4	CARLY-J 16 (F Jackson) F Jackson 5-10-9	Mr N Kent	73
15	5-5	SCALLY HICKS 30 (T Wallen) B Baugh 5-10-9	Gary Lyons	–

BETTING: 7-4 Mighty Moss, 5-2 Beggars Banquet 9-2 Agistment 7-1 Share Options, 14-1 Aut Even 20-1 Barton Ward, 25-1 others

FORM FOCUS

AGISTMENT beat Hand Woven 4l in 25-runner novice hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good). BEGGARS BANQUET beat Inn At The Top ½l in 19-runner novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to soft). MIGHTY MOSS beat Glitter Isle 6l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). SHARE OPTIONS beat Antartic Wind ¾l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). AUT EVEN 12½l 3rd of 22 to Forest Ivory in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good to soft). BARTON WARD 19l 3rd of 15 to Ben Cruachan in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f, good to soft). COLONEL BLAZER 5¼l 3rd of 21 to Dawn Leader in National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm).
Selection: MIGHTY MOSS (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Sherwood	17	57	29.8	G Bradley	8	34	23.5
C Brooks	5	17	29.4	R Dunwoody	37	159	23.3
M Pipe	38	143	26.6	A Maguire	24	112	21.4
D Nicholson	21	79	26.6	J A McCarthy	5	27	18.5
K Bailey	25	103	24.3	D Bridgwater	20	109	18.3
C Egerton	5	21	23.8	N Williamson	23	138	16.7

Farrant out

RODNEY FARRANT has given up his five booked rides at Hereford today. Farrant injured his shoulder when Sister Rosza fell at Bangor on Wednesday. Although X-rays revealed nothing was broken, Farrant was advised to take

RAPID RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
UTTOXETER 101 201
HEXHAM 102 202
HEREFORD 103 203
LINGFIELD 104 204

[illegible] 150

هكذا عن الاصل

Managing to survive on the merry-go-round

On the day Frank Clark threw in the towel, **Brian Glanville** *finds what it takes to succeed*

Cruyff: in wide demand

Johan Cruyff put it well and wisely the other day. "I've *always said* that it wasn't out of the ordinary for a manager to come to a club and build a great team," he said. "It's enough to have good players and a little luck. As against that, to keep the club on top is always a little problematic."

Cruyff should know. Though Barcelona parted company with him this year after a long, torrid, contentious, sporadically successful reign, he remains in enormous demand. He could go back to his beloved Ajax if he wants, at the end of the season, when Louis van Gaal leaves.

Franz Beckenbauer, Cruyff's old friend and rival from the great days of Total Football, would like him at Bayern Munich. Spanish and Italian clubs are interested. This, despite the way he was perpetually at loggerheads with Barcelona's president, Josép Lluis Nuñez, and often with such stars as Michael Laudrup and Hristo Stoichkov. Even when Cruyff was in charge at Ajax, when young prodigies such *as Marco van Basten worshipped* him, his autocratic ways were such that Frank Rijkaard could not wait to get away.

So the myth and mystery of the manager remain. What should he do, what does he do? Should he crack the whip like Cruyff or Brian Clough? Should he be out on the training field, paying infinite attention to detail, as Roy Hodgson is doing in Milan with Internazionale, whose defence keeps collapsing just the same?

"Kind, but with a strong hand," Vittoria Pozzo, the great Italian mentor who won two World Cups between the wars, used to say. "If I let them make mistakes, I lose my authority." And he was often out on the training pitch.

Clough rarely was. As often as not, he might simply show up in the dressing-room just before a game. "Have you ever been punched in the stomach, young man?" he asked his unlucky young centre forward, Nigel Jemson, now at Oxford United, on one such occasion: then suited the action to the words.

When he did turn up at the training ground, Peter Shilton — due to celebrate his 1,000th League appearance when he plays for Leyton Orient on Sunday — said thatv the impact was great. "It was attitude training."

With his remarkable partnership with the late Peter Taylor resembling nothing so much as football's version of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Clough had success with both Derby County and Nottingham Forest, none at *all at Leeds* United, where the players drove him out after 44 days, nor at Brighton, where he demoralised the team. What works at one place does not necessarily work at others. Thus Joe Kinnear, who has worked wonders at Wimbledon, is probably right to refuse lucrative offers and stay there. A kind of guerrilla general, he is utterly the right man for the job, defending club and team with sometimes excessive sensitivity.

When he mistakenly thought Gary Lineker had said Wimbledon were worth watching only on Ceefax, Kinnear, feeling persecuted, embattled and unappreciated, was pushed to ever greater effort on the training field and in the transfer market.

Blackburn Rovers, now, are to *pay Sven Goran Eriksson a fortune* to leave Sampdoria for Ewood Park. Will it be money well spent? Can Eriksson, for all his huge European experience, do more for Blackburn than their modest, unambitious stopgap, the estimable *Tony Parkes? And why*, with all due respect, does Eriksson want to come to Blackburn at all, a club which could even drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, when the likes of Lazio would evidently be glad to have him back.

I have known and appreciated Eriksson for many years; a man of charm, honesty and competence. Blackburn clearly hope he will emulate Arsène Wenger, who has the same qualities and is doing remarkably well with a far-from-dazzling Arsenal team he took over with the season well advanced.

Recently, the coruscating Nigerian forward, Viktor Ipkeba, paid tribute to Wenger, and the way he helped him at Monaco — just as George Weah has done.

What one can say, surely, is that every managerial career is finite, the triumphant exception that proves the rule being the remarkable Guy Roux, 30 years at Auxerre, who actually won the French championship last season, and endlessly produces fine players. But managerial pressures are immense. If, on the Continent, the manager does not have to be a marketeer, he is often prey to pressures from fans and the media unknown in Britain.

Bill Shankly quit Liverpool while he was ahead. Alex Ferguson, ten years at Old Trafford, has, over the past couple of seasons, been prone to strange tactical errors and manifest mistakes in the transfer market.

"I never knew," Brian Mears, when he was chairman of Chelsea and Dave Sexton was no longer delivering the goods, said, "that managers need motivating too."

"*You* don't know what's going on in a club," Jesse Carver, the one *English manager to* win a postwar Italian championship, said. "No one does." He may have been right, for the myth and the mystery continue.

FOOTBALL

United disclaim reports of £20m bid for Batistuta

By Russell Kempson

MANCHESTER United have denied reports that they have made a world record offer of £20 million for Gabriel Batistuta, the Argentina and Fiorentina forward. *Corriere dello Sport*, the Italian newspaper, claimed yesterday that Martin Edwards, the United chairman and chief executive, faxed a bid to Fiorentina late last week.

United were also reported to have offered £7 million for Stefan Schwarz, the Sweden and former Arsenal midfield player, who also plays for Fiorentina. Vittorio Cecchi Gori, president of the Italian Cup holders, is said to be considering the approaches, despite having recently persuaded Batistuta, the club captain, to sign a new contract.

However, United issued an immediate and curt response to the stories. "It is absolute rubbish," Ken Ramsden, the Old Trafford press officer, said. It was a similar reaction to that of Robert Coar, the Blackburn Rovers chairman, after his club had been linked, also by *Corriere dello Sport*, to Rui Costa, the Portugal midfield player, and Lorenzo Amoruso, the Italian defender. They, too, play for Fiorentina.

"Rubbish," Coar said, Rovers reportedly having offered £11 million for Rui Costa, who played for Portugal during Euro 96, and £7 million for Amoruso. Apparently, the moves had been authorised by Sven Goran Eriksson, the present coach of Sampdoria who will become Blackburn's manager during the summer.

Batistuta's contract takes him through to 2000, with an option until 2001, while Rui Costa has signed up until 2001. Though Batistuta's form is short of his best and the team is struggling in mid-table in *Serie A*, he is hugely popular with the supporters.

Fiorentina have also reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup, in which they play Benfica next year, and it is unlikely that supporters would forgive Cecchi Gori if he were to sell the club's prize asset.

Italy hope to play Northern Ireland, Ireland or Wales on January 22 in advance of the World Cup qualifying match with England in February. It will be the only chance Cesare Maldini, the new Italy manager, has to assess his team before the game at Wembley.

Alan Shearer, of Newcastle United, David Seaman, of Arsenal, Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, and Peter Schmeichel and Gary Neville, the Manchester United pair, are to play for a Europe XI against an Africa XI in Lisbon on January 29. The match will open an under-17 youth tournament between teams from both continents to raise money for various football projects in Africa. It will also launch the "European Year Against Racism" campaign, which has been organised by Uefa, the sport's governing body in Europe.

Christian Ziege, Jürgen Klinsmann and Andreas Möller, of Germany, Paolo Maldini and Alessandro del Piero, of Italy, and Alen Boksic, of Croatia, will also feature in the Europe line-up.

Mike Newell, the Birmingham City forward, has joined West Ham United on a month's loan, with a view to a permanent move. Newell, formerly of Blackburn and Everton, cost Birmingham £770,000 when he left Ewood Park in the summer.

He scored only one goal in seven Nationwide League first division games before asking to go on the transfer list two months ago, after telling Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, that he was unable to settle in the Midlands. He could make his debut for West Ham against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tomorrow.

Bolton Wanderers have signed John Sheridan, the experienced Sheffield Wednesday midfield player. Bolton have agreed to pay £180,000 for the Ireland international, with Wednesday receiving a further £25,000 if Bolton win promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

Sheridan, 32, who started his career at Leeds United, spent a recent loan spell at Burnden Park. He is expected to play in the first division game away to Swindon Town on Sunday.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, is to take another look at Vlad Kinder, 26, the Slovakia left back, after he did well in a reserve match. Robson has already contacted Slovan Bratislava, Kinder's club. "I quite liked what I saw," Robson said. "There could be a deal for Vlad if he continues to impress."

MARC ASPLAND

Swimmers in the men's 200 metres freestyle make a splash at the start of the heats

Hickman set for stiff test

By Craig Lord

ORGANISERS of the British swimming championships might be wise to make sure that they have enough bottle to cope with the ambitions of James Hickman. That way, they might avoid a repeat of the French farce of February this year, when two world records by Denis Pankratov, of Russia, could not be ratified because organisers of the World Cup event had ran out of drug-test vessels.

Voted Young Mancunian of the Year last month, Hickman, 20, yesterday set the pace at Pond's Forge pool in Sheffield with a British short-course record of 53.30sec in the 100 metres butterfly heats. He intends to add the world short-course record over 200 metres tomorrow (presently 1min 53.05sec, against Pankratov's disallowed 1min 52.34sec).

Shame, then, that for the last three of the four days of the championships, there will be no drug-testing. Should Hickman achieve his ambition, test equipment will have to be brought in within 24 hours for the record to count.

Hickman's good form, a continuation of the success he enjoyed in making finals at the Olympic Games, is testament to the job being done by Dave Calleja, his coach, at Stockport Metro. His other charge is Graeme Smith, the bronze medal-winner in the 1,500 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

Smith yesterday withdrew from the final of the 1,500 after swimming the heats, on the grounds that he is working to improve his sprint speed, essential if he is to stand a chance of a gold medal in Sydney 2000. He will avoid meeting Ian Wilson, winner of the silver medal at the European short-course championships last weekend, and concentrate on the 200 metres and 400 metres in Sheffield.

Results, page 34

Vimpani plunders weakened attack

GRAEME VIMPANI, Victoria's young opening batsman, scored his maiden first-class century yesterday as the state side compiled 354 on the opening day of their four-day match against the West Indians at Wangaratta. Poor fielding again hampered the touring side, led by Brian Lara, for they dropped three catches and conceded 38 extras. Vimpani hit 17 boundaries in his 133, made from 202 balls, and put Victoria in a strong position at 221 for four before they were pegged back by Nixon McLean, who took five for 48, finishing the innings with successive deliveries.

McLean was the spearhead of the attack in the absence of Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who were resting in preparation for next week's third Test, in which West Indies must at least avoid defeat to keep the series alive. Jimmy Adams, the slow left-arm bowler, again proved effective, following his five wickets against Pakistan in the World Series Cup on Tuesday by taking three for 52.

New man for Minardi

MOTOR RACING: Minardi, the Formula One team, have signed Ukyo Katayama, of Japan, to drive for them during the 1997 season. Katayama, 33, had been with Tyrrell, the British team, since 1993. He will join the Italian team on January 7, Minardi said yesterday. "I think that Minardi will be a big surprise for many in the course of the season," Katayama said.

Minardi said last month that they had begun a "long-term plan" to improve their form, bringing in new investors and signing a deal for exclusive use of Hart V8 engines and another two-year deal with Bridgestone tyres. They also plan to unveil the new Minardi M197 by mid-January, but have yet to name a second driver.

Women's role for Noah

TENNIS: Yannick Noah, who has won the Davis Cup twice in five years as captain of the French men's side, will lead the women's team in the Fed Cup in Japan in March. "The decision will be taken officially at the next management committee meeting on January 3," Jean-Claude Massias, the French federation national director of coaching, said. Françoise Durr will, however, also keep her title as captain. "I hope he can prove as good at leading women as he has proved at leading the men," Julie Halard, a member of the team, said.

Doyle motion wins day

SNOOKER: The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) annual general meeting was yesterday adjourned until the new year after a motion by Ian Doyle, a leading critic of the association, that it had been incorrectly convened was carried by 15 votes to nine at the Marriott Hotel in Bristol (Phil Yates writes). He claimed the WPBSA had wrongly nominated the number of directors seeking re-election after the late resignation of John Spencer. Geoff Foulds, chairman, said of the power struggle: "There has been a scandalous campaign against the association."

England slip up

BASKETBALL: England slipped to their seventh defeat in eight group games in the European championship semi-final round when they were beaten 88-67 by Germany in Leipzig on Wednesday night. Already out of contention for a place in the finals next summer, England connected with 41 per cent of their shots compared to Germany's 56 per cent. Dunkley top-scored for England with 14 points, with Bucknall and Huggins getting 13 apiece, but it was not enough to beat the Germans, for whom Rodl led the scoring with 19 points.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

Club chairmen agree to league changes

By Russell Kempson

AN EXPECTED challenge to the restructuring of the Football League, from disenchanted clubs in the second and third divisions of the Nationwide League, fizzled out yesterday. The Football League's proposals, which include dismantling the six-strong board of directors and replacing it with an independently chaired nine-man body, were eventually given overwhelming support at an extraordinary general meeting in London.

Representatives of 69 of the 72 Nationwide League clubs voted the moves through, despite fears from many of the smaller clubs that they would be relinquishing too much power to their larger first division counterparts.

Gordon McKeag, 69, the league *president and chairman of the* present board, who will lose his chairmanship and will also stand down as president at the end of the season, said: "Change is inevitable. In many areas, it is not only desirable but necessary. Additional money in the game brings benefits, but it also brings dangers and problems. What might happen to a sport that has become solely dependent on outside sources if the money dries up? and determining how it is spent. There are signs, at the moment, that that balance is not being maintained. At the same time, we must preserve the essential values. After all, it is a sport."

David Sheepshanks, the Ipswich Town chairman and a prime mover of the proposals, is believed to have been accepted as one of three first division representatives on the newly-constructed board. He will join Ron Noades, of Crystal Palace, and Ian Stott, of Oldham Athletic. Nominations for the second and third division representatives close on Monday, with the result of the postal ballot due before January 9.

Iain Sproat, the Sports Minister, has urged the FA Premier League *and Littlewoods, the pools company*, to provide financial assistance for the Football Trust, which is mainly responsible for funding the upgrading of grounds in the wake of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

Since the introduction of the National Lottery two years ago, the Trust's annual income has slipped from a reported £37 million to £15 million. It is now concerned that it will be unable to fund some ground

Stockport see future in the Premiership

By Our Sports Staff

VICTORY over West Ham United on Wednesday night may have earned Stockport County a place in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals, but David Jones, the Stockport manager, was not about to change his priorities after his Nationwide League second division team had enjoyed their moment of glory at Edgeley Park.

"It's a great feeling to have won, but I've always said that our immediate priority is to get out of the second division," Jones said after his team had achieved a memorable 2-1 success in their fourth-round replay, aided by a freakish own goal by Iain Dowie, the West Ham striker. "We're very ambitious at this club and the next step after that would be *the Premiership. That's what* we're aiming for."

Southampton earned a quarter-final trip to Stockport with a 3-2 defeat of Oxford United in Wednesday's other fourth-round replay, despite the absence of Matthew Le Tissier with a thigh injury, while Manchester United did their championship chances little good with a 1-1 draw at Sheffield Wednesday.

COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-final draw: Ipswich

Dowie set on lightening the load at Harrow

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

SPECTATORS filing into the Earlsmead ground of Harrow Borough pass a forlorn, fallen floodlight pylon in the car park that is a fitting symbol of the Icis League club's plight in the lower reaches of the premier division.

"We had four 80ft pylons with 12 lamps on each that were erected about 23 years ago," Peter Rogers, the club's football director, said. "One of the directors was walking his dog first thing in the morning and noticed a gap in one corner. We were lucky. The pylon fell when there was nobody about and there weren't any cars in the car park. It could have fallen on the pitch, the clubhouse or gardens on the side of the ground."

Adjusting the other pylons has enabled Harrow to carry on playing, *but a structural engineer has* now told the club that it must replace all the pylons. Even with insurance from the fallen pylon — a victim of gales — and safety grants, the club may face a worrying shortfall.

To get the club out of the shadows on the field, Harrow have turned to Bob Dowie, the brother of Iain, the West Ham United striker. Dowie replaced Harry Manoe, a Harrow stalwart in his playing days, who had "We finished eighth last year and he hadn't really changed the side. He felt the players weren't responding to him. He runs a big double-glazing firm and was very busy with his work, so he felt it was time to step away. He brought me to the club as coach last year and encouraged me to take the job."

The new manager is not short of things to do either. He combines working at Heathrow as an engineer for General Electric on British Airways' new Boeing 777 with acting as the FA head coach for Hertfordshire.

Dowie lifted the team off the foot of the table on Saturday with a 1-0 win over Chertsey Town, having brought in Ian Rutherford, a striker, from Berkhamsted, and Justin Merritt, a full back, from Brackley. "I don't want anybody to feel comfortable," he said. "If players have a bad game, I want them to know that there are people itching to get their place in the team."

Among the players he wants to make way is a 35-year-old centre half called Dowie. "I'm too close to it," he said. "I've always found it difficult to keep my mouth shut. Now I'm manager, it'll be even harder." With due immodesty, however, he feels it

SAILING

Rig failure likely to put Tibbs at rear of fleet

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE BT Global Challenge fleet suffered its first serious rig failure three-fifths of the way through the Southern Ocean on Wednesday night when *Concert*, skippered by Chris Tibbs, fell off a wave and lost her mast from about 20ft above the deck.

The failure occurred as the yacht was going to windward in about 30 knots of wind on starboard tack in steep seas and snowstorms. At the time, she was under triple-reefed mainsail and staysail, about 2,000 miles east of her destination of Wellington, in New Zealand, and lying in fourth place.

According to Andrew Roberts, the race project director, who oversees the technical preparation of the yachts, the mast broke just above the first set of spreaders, which are 20ft above the deck, and then fell over the port side. There was a second break at the middle set of spreaders, 40ft up, and the crew were able to save the middle section after cutting away the top part.

The cause of the failure was a breakage in the intermediate shroud on the starboard side, a 12mm stainless steel wire running from the deck up to the middle spreaders. The fracture occurred just where the stay passes through the lower spreaders.

Race positions 37

Roberts has been looking at all the possible causes for so catastrophic a failure in new rigging which, on other Challenge boats, has lasted more than 100,000 miles, but, in this case, seems to have reached its "fatigue life" after just 10,000 miles of sailing.

"We are trying to come up with a reason why it is occurring," he said. "One thing I've picked up is that the yachts have been on the same tack — starboard — for between 75 and 90 per cent of the race so far, or close to 10,000 miles." The assumption is that the strain has been unusually acute on one side of the boat and for days on end — something that cannot be replicated in sea trials.

Roberts is worried about some of the other yachts, two of which have developed signs of failure in their starboard shrouds. *Commercial Union* has a strand missing on one of her lowers, while *Toshiba Wave Warrior* has a similar strand failure at the first set of spreaders. These problems come in addition to the deterioration in the forestays on four yachts — *Global Teamwork*, *3Com*, *Heath Insured II* and *Save The Children* — the first two of which have had to re-rig them.

The events of Wednesday are an unwelcome reminder for Roberts and Chay Blyth, the race director, of the last race, when seven yachts experienced problems with a faulty rigging screw in the Southern Ocean and one, *British Steel II*, was dismasted.

Just like *British Steel* before her, *Concert* is now motoring to the Chatham Islands, 420 miles southeast of Wellington, after having taken extra fuel on board from *Motorola*. When she gets there, in around two weeks, she will refuel and then head for Wellington, where she will arrive about a week after the rest of the fleet and where a new mast will be fitted after being flown out from Plymouth.

For the crew of *Concert*, the rig failure is a cruel blow. The boat did exceptionally well in the first leg to finish third and looked to be maintaining that level of performance on this leg. Tibbs, who was not tipped as a possible winner at the start, was regarded as having a good chance of finishing in the top three overall.

Concert is expected to retire formally from this leg. Her performance, under the rules of this event, will be the same as the last yacht to arrive in Wellington, with another 15 per cent of that yacht's time added on. Even after her strong showing on the first leg is taken into account, she is likely to find herself at the rear of the fleet.

Blyth himself was worried by the drama, but not unduly so. He said that the yachts have undergone the best possible preparation and every fault that is found is subsequently rectified. He added that it is partly because of the confidence that the crews have in his boats that they push them so hard — until something else fails.

In the wake of the incident on *Concert*, there were signs yesterday that several of the skippers have eased off a little, to make sure that they reach New Zealand in one piece.

JULIAN HERBERT

Whitaker guides Virtual Village Welham to victory at Olympia yesterday

Whitaker maintains fine form with sprint finish

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

IT WAS a case of blink and you missed him as John Whitaker, of Great Britain, riding Virtual Village Welham, stormed round the Christmas Cracker Accumulator competition at the Olympia showjumping championships yesterday to record his second big win of the show by a margin of 4.52 seconds.

The victory, which follows his success on Grannusch in the Christmas Turkey Stakes on Wednesday night, continues the Yorkshireman's formidable run of success over the last month. In Berlin four weeks ago, he won the World Cup qualifier on Welham. Six days later, on Grannusch, he added the Maastricht Grand Prix to his list of successes.

"There's little to choose between them at the moment," Whitaker said of the two 17-year-old geldings after his latest win in which, urged on by his vociferous supporters, he gained the maximum points of 36 in a time of 41.49sec. The Essex-based John Renwick, who is competing at the show for the first time, was the runner-up on Roundstreet Charlie in a comparatively leisurely time of 46.41.

Whitaker confirmed afterwards that Welham will be his ride for the World Cup qualifier tomorrow, the centrepiece of the five-day programme.

Later, in the Beeton Rumford Stakes, James Fisher found the extra turn of foot needed to win a class at Olympia when he and Renville relegated William Funnell, on Comex, to second place by more than two seconds.

"When you're fast on him, you know you're quick," Fisher said of the eight-year-old Renville, "but I hadn't expected to win by such a big margin." Renville, whom Fisher has had since a four-year-old, has won 20 international classes this year.

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Fisher, who was a member of the winning Nations' Cup teams in Lisbon and Modena this year, is hoping his luck will hold for the World Cup qualifier tomorrow, in which he will ride Bowriver Queen. The 14-year-old Irish mare, who won the Geneva qualifier in 1994 and was eighth at Olympia last year, confirmed her form when finishing fourth in the Turkey Stakes on Wednesday night after completing a double clear round.

With a clutch of in-form partnerships competing, including last year's winner, Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, with Priamos, and Nick Skelton, with Dollar Girl — who were fifth and sixth in the main class on Wednesday night — Olympia, which traditionally has one of the most demanding courses on the circuit, looks set for a vintage World Cup qualifier.

☐ *Silk Cut, the sponsor of the* £135,000 Hickstead Jumping Derby since 1984, has pulled out of showjumping after a "change of management". Edward Bunn, Hickstead's manager, said yesterday that Silk Cut's contract was until 2000, but that it had made use of an opt-out agreement. "We're hoping for some lottery money or a new sponsor to keep the show going," Bunn said.

☐ Joanna Jackson, a member of Britain's gold medal-winning team at the Paralympic Games in Atlanta, was presented with the British Equestrian Writers' Association's trophy for the equestrian personality of the year award yesterday.

RUGBY UNION

Pay dispute threatens Cardiff's French test

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF may be forced to play their Heineken Cup semi-final against Brive on January 5 without any significant match practice if the referees' strike in Wales cannot be resolved. As matters stand, only 13 games will be played in Wales tomorrow — six postponed Swalec Cup games and seven from divisions seven and eight of the Welsh League.

Cardiff had been looking forward to league games with Swansea tomorrow and Pontypridd a week later as preparation for the game in Brive. But there seems no likelihood of movement over Christmas in the dispute over pay between the Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees and the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU).

"We feel we have made our case crystal clear as a union," Richard Jasinski, the WRU secretary, said. "We have offered to pay our officials for matches they control in the top two divisions in which the elite professionals play. We simply do not have the funds available to stretch further down the league pyramid."

Only 13 referees have declared their availability for duty tomorrow and the matches they have been awarded equate to their grading and experience, with the six cup games receiving preference. The only good news for the WRU is that another pay dispute — that involving Scott Quinnell, the Richmond back-row forward — appears to have been resolved. Quinnell has been given a £10,000 sponsorship by Reebok, the official WRU sponsors, and will be available for selection by Wales in the new year.

That may also interest the selectors for the British Isles, who will take their largest-ever playing party to South Africa next summer to contest the 13-match tour. The four *home unions have agreed that* 35 players should make the trip, five more than normal, *echoing arrangements made* on recent tours by New Zealand and South Africa.

Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, will hope to field XVs nearly equivalent in strength *in Saturday matches and mid*week games. "Our plan is to take two full teams plus additional men in key positions — hooker, prop, back-five forward, scrum half and centre or wing," *he said*.

Bath have named Phil de Glanville, the England captain, in their XV to play London Irish in the Pilkington Cup tomorrow. De Glanville missed England's game with Argentina last weekend with a thigh injury. Richard Butland comes in for the injured Mike Catt at stand-off half.

Players' safety imperative in changing times

GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

The court case involving Ben Smoldon, who broke his neck when a rugby scrum collapsed and will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life, can be seen as a blessing as well as a curse. We feel a deeply rooted compassion for a man whose capacity "for an active and independent life", as Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, said, "had been blighted".

Smoldon has been awarded financial compensation to alleviate the difficulties of his incapacity, but, in passing the ruling, His Lordship recognised that "it was of concern that the judgment would emasculate and enmesh in unwelcome legal toils a game which gave pleasure to millions". There are lessons to be learnt from this decision.

There is an element of risk that each individual understands when he or she undertakes to participate in a sport. Indeed, each sport, to a greater or lesser degree, operates on the slippery edges of danger. The whizzing ball in tennis can be identified as a threatening missile; the golf course has its hazards; a sailor faces the swelling sea and other elements, as does the angler. It is of no use for one sport to point a finger at the perils of another. We know why we choose what we do.

In some cases, danger is the element that attracts people to a sport. Collision and speed are integral to rugby and the seductive combination accentuates the danger. Power and strength add to the appeal.

The officials who control the sport understand that, along with administering the laws of the game, they must do so with due care for the participants' safety. Hitherto, it has been the game's authorities that have determined the levels of safety; with the ruling on Tuesday, the courts seem to have taken this responsibility and Lord Bingham is aware of the precedent that he *may be setting. He hoped that* there would be no trend.

Does not a dilemma arise in *rugby football — where there* are so many areas of physical confrontation and where *there is a likelihood of harm*ful consequences — to determine the level of care?

Historically, the laws of rugby football are open to a variety of interpretations. While the law-makers attempt to explain the manner in which the game should be played, there is, quite often, once the match is under way, a singular lack of clarity as to what precisely is going on. Inevitably, spectators are forced to wonder and to ask where the whistle went. Rarely is it straightforward. Yet the referee, poor soul, is the sole judge of fact.

It is, for instance, for the referee to determine what constitutes a dangerous tackle. The laws deem a chest-high tackle to be acceptable, whereas a head-high tackle or a tackle "above the line of the shoulders" is not; yet the difference between the two can be minimal. It is the referee who has to make an instant judgment.

In the event of a serious injury or a fatality as the consequence of such a tackle, to what extent does the liability rest with the referee? To what extent should the courts, now that the precedent has been set, be asked to determine whether the referee had exercised his duty of care?

Certainly, one of the significant pieces of evidence in the recent case on which the Court of Appeal was asked to consider, was the fact that there were 25 collapses of the scrum during the game. This figure was far above the acceptable standard. High tackles may not be repeated as often as this nor committed necessarily by the same player, but high tackles, wherever the defining line is drawn, are unquestionably increasing in number. A dangerous accident, as they say, is waiting to happen. Upon whom lies the duty of care then? And who should decide?

This represents an example of the problems that lie *ahead for a sport* which was designed to be amateur and is no more. *Dependent on goodwill and* nurtured on what I still think of as a generosity of spirit, *rugby thrived. No more can* rugby rely on these qualities. It has been thrust, before its time, *into the professional* arena, and different attitudes are forced to prevail. A sterner mood is now prevalent.

As well as prompting an increase in their insurance premiums, the result of the court case ought to give the rugby authorities pause for thought. They should consider, in their increasingly confrontational sport, what should be a professional code of practice for players' safety.

SPORTS LETTERS

Veteran runners deserve more consideration

From Mr Stanley J. Weber

Sir, Once again enthusiastic, would-be London Marathon entrants are receiving their yeas or nays from the organisers.

The method of *selecting* applications asks each applicant four questions, which are intended to give what could be called "the most deserving" a better chance of acceptance.

However, many veteran club runners feel aggrieved over the introduction of certain favourable methods, which can bring the organisers charges of ageism and sexism, *and even* involve respectable charities in an unhealthy form of incentive.

Let me explain. *One of the* criteria used for *automatic* acceptance of runners aged over 65 is:

a. Men must prove they can complete a marathon in under four hours.

b. Women must prove they can complete in under six hours.

Hence, for example, an enthusiastic club runner such as myself (78 years old, who completed two marathons, aged 66, in three hours 30 minutes, and who can now complete in five hours 30 minutes) has little chance of acceptance against a "young" 65-year-old woman now taking almost six hours and who would be automatically accepted.

As against all the organisers' pretence of equality and fairness, it is noticeable that a lady Scottish runner, well over 80 (and congratulations and good luck to her), is allowed to run annually in the London Marathon and of course she takes well over six hours. We male veterans are in no way envious of her record but do feel we are being insulted by *male ageism* adopted by the organisers. Are they using Jenny Allen as an example of their "*kindness and tolerance*" to the oldies, who otherwise are considered a nuisance to the event?

In the early days the organiser, Chris Brasher, was vehemently against payments leading to favoured placing in the event. Yet, under the present regime, the rejection notice is accompanied by an invitation to run for one or two charities who have places available to any runner who can guarantee raising £1,000 for their respective causes.

This is an unhealthy practice, and in fact dangerous, especially for the more elderly runner who could be more prone to accidents, eg, twisted ankle over a discarded drinking bottle or an unexpected malady, after which persistence in finishing the 26 miles, in order to honour his guarantee to the charity, could even endanger his life.

I do plead for the reintroduction of the previous consideration to the proven elderly club runner.

Yours faithfully,
STAN WEBER (President,
The Running Sixties),
Flat 7, 1 St *Mildreds Gardens*,
Westgate-on-Sea, Kent.

Britain's finest

From Mr J. G. T. Dewar

Sir, At this time of annual reviews and sports personality of the year awards, may I *enter a plea for the* claims of British squash to a mention in dispatches.

Britain are currently men's world team champions, women's runners-up (in both team and individual events) and world junior team champions. There are 14 British men in the world top 25 and 19 British women. Contrast these statistics with the wide media coverage given to tennis, in which the arrival of two British players in the top 100 was much trumpeted.

Lest it should be thought that squash is a *minority* or esoterically British sport, 25 nationalities appeared in the men's world *top* 100 in October and 18 among the top 60 women. The numbers playing the game *in Britain* also compare well with all other sports. What a pity that, because it is not "good television", squash does not rate a mention in most reviews and ceremonies.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES DEWAR,
82 Bouverie Avenue,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

Spur to Zimbabwe

From Mr Nigel Hill

Sir, You report (December 16) *that the captain of the* England cricket team touring Zimbabwe described their third *defeat in four one-day interna*tional meetings as a "jinx".

It seems obvious to me that his failure to acknowledge that Zimbabwe had played the better game will do nothing to improve the performance of his own team. On the contrary, his arrogance will only encourage Zimbabwe to play even better and make another defeat more likely.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL HILL,
12 Colebrooke Avenue, W13.

Time to halt the maul

From Mr A. McIlwraith

Sir, During the recent University rugby match the referee quite correctly penalised players for "crossing". By doing so, one player was, for however short a time, preventing an opponent from tackling the man with the ball. This applied whether the obstruction was intentional or not.

Yet, in the same match, players were permitted to obstruct their opponents quite deliberately and for long periods and remained unpenalised. I refer, of course, to what is now known as the maul, which prevents defenders from tackling the ball-carrier.

I believe this hits at the heart of the rugby football ethic and should be banned, and we should return to the procedure whereby an individual supported or otherwise by his team-mates can take the ball forward in hand but, the *instant his progress is halted*, the ball should be put to ground and heeled back.

There may be those who will say that this will slow the game, but I would suggest that they look at film of old games in which the All Blacks were involved. They would see them joining a loose scrum already bound onto each other and hooking ball, and often the man as well, back to the scrum half in very short order *indeed*. The ball would then travel very quickly to the backs while many opposing *teams were still floundering. It* is all a matter of coaching and practice.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR McILWRAITH,
Benmor,
Blashaval,
Lochmaddy,
Isle of North Uist.

CRICKET

Pakistan checked by Peters

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND battled back strongly after the loss of two early wickets to hold the upper hand at the close of the first day of the second under-19 international against Pakistan in Lahore yesterday. An impressive 74 from Stephen Peters and an unbeaten 47 from David Nash guided England to a total of 224 for five on a lively pitch.

Andrew Flintoff's decision to bat initially backfired on the touring team as they struggled to reach 29 for two in the first 15 overs. Abdul Razzak worked up a lively pace to dismiss John Graham, of Durham, and David Sales, of Northamptonshire.

Then Flintoff and Peters brought about a recovery before the Lancashire player *tried one aggressive stroke too* many to provide Razzak with his third wicket. Peters, of *Essex, hit eight fours before he* was dismissed and England suffered a further blow when Ben Hollioake was bowled by Razzak, who finished the day with figures of four for 72.

☐ Shaun Young returned career-best figures of seven for *64 as the Pakistan touring* team were dismissed for 299 on the opening day of their *four-day game against Tas*mania in Hobart.

The Pakistanis, without their regular opening batsman, Aamir Sohail, who needed ten stitches in a head wound sustained when slipping in the dressing-room after the defeat by West Indies on Tuesday, were saved from embarrassment by a quickfire 80 from Shahid Afridi.

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ICE HOCKEY

Britain hope for brighter future

By Our Sports Staff

SHANNON HOPE was prepared to accept yesterday that qualification for the Olympic Games is now unlikely, after the 3-3 draw with Switzerland on Wednesday night, but the Great Britain captain believes that the world championships can provide compensation.

"We are all disappointed that it looks unlikely we'll qualify for the Olympics, but the national team programme has come on a lot over the last few months," Hope said. "The players get little reward for playing, but the dedication they have shown proves they want to see the British game drive forward."

A British team has not reached the Olympics for 50 years, and the Swiss should beat Denmark at home tomorrow, thus reaching the tournament in February where five places at the 1988 Games in Nagano, Japan, are on offer. But Britain, who would miss out despite not losing a game, are still confident that they can regain a place among the world's elite.

Hope believes Britain can win their world championship pool B competition in Poland in April. "I think, as a team, we have shown we are ready now to make it to pool A again," he said. "I expect us to get there."

Britain had a brief flirtation with pool A in 1994, but took some heavy beatings before finishing last. The next year, a lack of preparation and a clash with the end-of-season play-offs nearly saw them drop out of the second tier.

The situation has since improved under Peter Woods, the coach, and Nico Toemen, the technical director, who has arranged a training camp in Austria in April, before travelling on to the championships in Poland.

"Our preparation before has been to tell the players to get out of the bar at Wembley because you're off to the world championships," Toemen said. "That won't happen again. I don't care how much money it will cost, but we will be having a camp before the championships. We have to have the strongest preparation possible."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Great Britain	8	5	3	0	31	15	13
Switzerland..	7	5	2	0	34	13	12
Denmark......	7	3	1	3	22	20	7
Slovenia.....	8	3	0	5	32	24	6
Holland......	8	0	0	8	8	55	0

Memorabilia fails the taste test

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

Trick photography helps your correspondent to come face to face with a hero at the Old Trafford Megastore

I had never used Manchester United gift-wrap until this year. But it's all right, actually; I'm not whingeing. The football thing was bound to affect my nearest and dearest in the long run and if they all get Manchester United shot glasses and Manchester United massage sandals for Christmas this year, they should just bear in mind how much worse it could have been. I mean, I did choose the best stuff, honest.

But the best stuff in the Old Trafford Megastore doesn't look so good when you get it home. It crumbles in the light of day. Damn. If only I could keep hold of simple, objective standards when I'm shopping. Were it on a display stand in Harvey Nichols in Leeds, you see, this little figurine of Ryan Giggs (with "GIGGS" helpfully written on it) would be a very tacky and unattractive item. But in the heady context of the Manchester United Megastore — a riot of hideous red and yellow motifs on golf umbrellas, baby-grows and beany hats — it appeared restrained and tasteful. "Admittedly, he looks more like Jack Nicholson, but hey, I'll have him anyway," this shopper declared, satisfied. "And what lovely Manchester United gift-wrap! Isn't it cheerful?"

Having visited the megastore, I now understand why football commentators use expressions like "set their stall out" and "shut up shop". Commerce is naked and pretty damned ugly at Old Trafford. If you were mentally deranged (and didn't mind eating off paper plates), you could do up a whole house in Manchester United merchandise, and still have items left over for the bin. Nobody could grumble at the prices. Bath towels are £10; wallpaper is £7 a roll; rugs are £40; a lampshade and base combined is a snip at £17; and a clock shaped like an enormous plastic watch is £16.

But beware: using football club wallpaper is all very well, but how does one cope afterwards in that lonely red-and-yellow house, deserted by family and unvisited by friends? "Either this wallpaper goes, or I do," were supposedly Oscar Wilde's last words, but the sentiment is potentially universal.

Not many people converged on Old Trafford the afternoon I visited the megastore. Perhaps the famed merchandise turnover — a million quid a week can't be right, can it? — comes from mail order customers. Anyway, a lot of items had been reduced, which seemed odd just before Christmas. Baby slippers had been knocked down from £7 to £4, as if this made them more attractive. On the other hand, *Le Philosophie de Cantona* (a slim volume) was a tip-top bargain, and I purchased two.

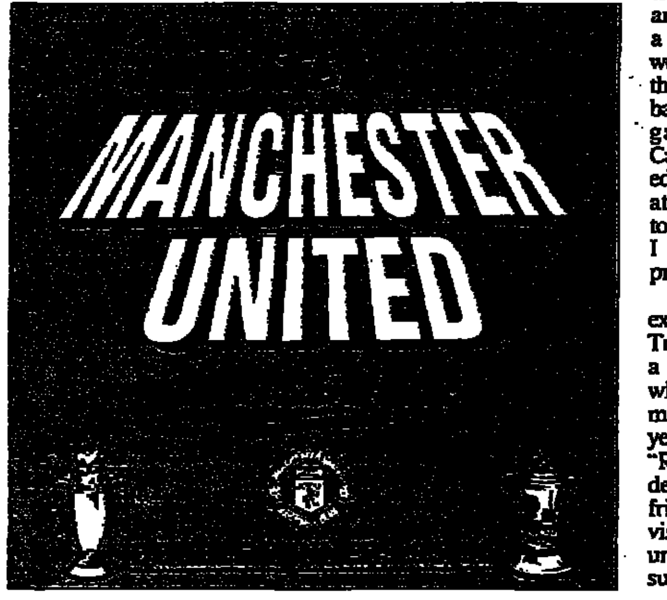
Yet punters were few, and at one point the only other customer was a local reporter, eagerly canvassing my boyfriend's opinion about the scandal of yet another Manchester United strip to be introduced after Christmas. Alas, she had chosen the wrong man. "Couldn't care less," he said, smiling enigmatically. "Football's not my thing at all." Naturally, she was confused. "But you're here," she reasoned. "You're wearing a red scarf."

Meanwhile, I toured the place, notebook in hand, fighting a strange feeling of shrinking in size. You see, the twin emporia at Old Trafford (the megastore only a bit bigger than the non-mega one) stand in the shadow of the grey stadium and the cold, towering concrete is not only intimidating, it also keeps reminding you that this big, impersonal club (turning its wealthy back against you) thrives on exploiting little sucker-ish people with bad money-sense, motif-fixations and awful taste in lampshades.

This sensation of suckerdom is not encouraging, obviously. I kept wanting to say: "Eric Cantona doesn't shop in here, does he? When was the last time Alex Ferguson popped in for a box of crackers?" Flipping the pages of the mail order catalogue, one can't help noticing that the players are much too grand (and expensive) to pose in the MUFC roll-neck sweaters and the white towelling bathrobes. In fact, if you look carefully at the man in the bathrobe picture, he has rather unprofessional sock-marks around his ankles.

But it's always the same with religion: we ask for bread; they give us stones. We want to commune with our heroes, and we end up with a signed print in a "gilt-effect" frame, costing £80. Suckers, suckers, little suckers — by the time I left the megastore with two carrier bags of stuff, I was only four feet tall; had I dallied longer beside the Manchester United hot-water bottle covers ("Shall I? Shan't I? I do *need* one"), I might have snuffed out like a candle.

> 'Commerce is naked and pretty damned ugly at Old Trafford'



No, the best value at Old Trafford is the £5 trick Polaroid with the star of your choice, although when I scanned the pictures for the lovely Beckham I couldn't find him. "Which is Beckham?" I asked the man with the camera. "There," he said. "No, that's not him," I said with confidence. "It is," he said. "He just hasn't been air-brushed, so he doesn't look handsome." (I detected jealousy in this remark.)

Fickle-hearted as ever, I chose Cantona and Schmeichel and then posed pluckily against a blank wall, trying to look weak-kneed and overcome by the honour of the occasion. It backfired slightly. Hoping to gaze admiringly into Cantona's eyes, I miscalculated my own height and looked at the top of his head; hoping to point larkily at Schmeichel, I lost a finger behind a programme he was signing.

But my pictures are an excellent memento of Old Trafford suckerdom, and also a rather good symbol for the whole business of football merchandise — being cheap yet a rip-off at the same time. "Really they ought to get a design consultant," the boyfriend said at the end of our visit. It was one of those lovely understatements that you treasure for the rest of your life.

GOLF: MASTERS CHAMPION TO FUND NEW TOURNAMENT FOR JUNIORS

Faldo invests in stars of the future

By John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent

NICK FALDO has always paid tribute to the help and encouragement he had as a junior golfer in Hertfordshire in the 1970s. Now Faldo, the Masters champion, is repaying a measure of that support by investing more than £100,000 and lending his name to a series of tournaments for under-18s to be played on some of the best courses in Britain and Ireland.

"This is not a project that I have taken on lightly," Faldo said when he launched the Faldo Junior Series in London yesterday. "I hope the junior series will motivate young players to work on their game and compete at a high level. Juniors represent the future of golf and I believe this tournament will help to identify the potential Walker and Ryder Cup stars of tomorrow."

The series is open to boys and girls who are amateur golfers with an official handicap of nine or less and are 17 years old or less.

The 60 players with the lowest handicaps will play three 18-hole strokeplay events in five regions — southern England, the Midlands and Wales, the north of England, Scotland and Ireland — and the 16 players with the lowest gross scores will receive points which give them a regional ranking.

The three highest-ranked players from each region will compete in a 36-hole final at the Forest of Arden golf club on August 27 and 28 at which Faldo will be present and will give advice.

"Sometimes I wish I could turn the clock back and set out on a professional career with all the knowledge I have accumulated in 20 years on tour," Faldo said.

"If had had the opportunity that these youngsters will now have, I would have been really, really good. I have learnt so much about diet, physical fitness and sports psychology, but I had to learn it as I went along.

"When I first spoke to a careers officer and said that I wanted to be a golfer, he just said 'no, no, no — only one in 10,000 make it.' I said I was that one. I would like to break down that attitude."

Faldo: will give advice

☐ Diana Critchley, the mother of Bruce Critchley, the television golf commentator, has died, at the age of 85. Critchley, née Fishwick, was British women's amateur champion in 1930, played in the 1932 and 1934 Curtis Cup matches against the United States and was twice English champion. She was non-playing captain of the 1950 Curtis Cup team.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

TRESAIEL

(b) A grandfather's grandfather, ie, a *great-great-grandfather*. From *tris* the Latin for *thrice* + *aiel* the Englishing of *aviolus* the diminutive of *avus* the Latin for a grandfather. Blackstone, 1768: "If it mounts one degree higher, to the tresayle or grandfather's grandfather, the writ is called a writ of cosinage, or *de consanguineo*."

UNWRASTE

(a) Of a poor, worthless or vile quality or condition, of little account. Hence, wicked of persons or actions. From the Old English. "It were ill,/ If every unwraste had his will."

TERGANT

(c) Showing the back, having the back turned towards the spectator. Said of an animal borne as a charge in heraldry, but rare even there, because turning the back is the antithesis of chivalry. From the Latin *tergum* a back, formed by analogy with *rampant* and *passant*. "Tergant, of a tortoise, having the back turned towards the spectator." With a tortoise, how can you tell?

URUCU

(c) The Anatta tree or Roucou, from the Brazilian Tupi *urucú*, a tropical red tree. 1613: "The women are well faced, painted red with urucu, which growes in a cod like a beane."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. . . . Rxb3! mates quickly, eg, 2, cxb3 Nxb3 mate or 2, Nc4 Rb1 mate.

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	15	140	fair	heavy	icy	fine	3	18/12
(Generally good skiing but icy patches on some pistes)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	10	40	fair	varied	art	fine	2	14/12
(Upper slopes offering good skiing; 39 of 60 lifts open)								
Schladming	20	60	fair	varied	art	cloud	2	2/12
(Most lifts open, Planai pistes skiing well)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	80	260	good	heavy	slushy	rain	2	13/12
(Rain softening snow; colder weather forecast)								
La Plagne	90	200	good	heavy	fair	cloud	2	14/12
(Very good skiing on majority of open pistes)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	115	245	good	varied	good	cloud	0	14/12
(All pistes remaining in great condition)								
Cortina	5	80	good	varied	art	cloud	2	13/12
(Good above 1,500 metres but heavy low down)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	60	120	good	varied	fair	cloud	0	14/12
(All lifts open, plenty of good skiing)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

All together now, boys

Chance in a Lifetime. *Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.*

It was as if someone had waved a magic wand. The trick, devised by the old Labour-run London County Council, was an experiment in left-wing social engineering before the term was even thought of. Wolverstone Hall was a grammar school set in multi-acred parkland near Ipswich. It was there, in 1951, that disadvantaged lads from inner-city areas, some with prostitute mothers or criminal fathers, found themselves sharing teachers, playing fields and Mozart opera choruses with middle-class boys. Working class and middle class merged almost seamlessly, though prohibitively expensively. Educationalists saw it as proof that an elite could be produced from anywhere. Sue Summers's look back at Wolverstone Hall's exercise in social mobility is not half as dull as I fear I might have made it sound.

Ninety Not Out. *Radio 4, 8.50pm.*

Actually, the cinematographer Freddie Young is 94, though the extra four years have not diminished his capacity to recall, and comment on, the film-makers with whom he has worked since he was 15. He can be caustic when he chooses to be. Gabriel Pascal, director of *Caesar and Cleopatra*, was "a fraud, a plausible rogue". Richard Thorpe, the Hollywood director, was "a bore who hated the English" and Peter O'Toole was "talking rubbish" when he said that filming *Lawrence of Arabia* ruined his health. Drink did that, says the Oscar-winning veteran who painted with light.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, includes at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat and at **6.30** The Continuous Dance Mix **7.00** Essential Selection, with Pete Tong **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **3.00am** Annie Nightingale **5.00** Charlie Jordan, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Wowfabgroovy. New quiz series with Johnnie Walker **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. From the Hippodrome in Golders Green. Robin Boyle introduces the BBC Concert Orchestra **8.45** Jamaica Inn (8/10) **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** Sheridan Morley **12.05am** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme. **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, with David McNeil, incl Sports Bulletin **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **8.30** Friday Sport, with Robin Bailey **10.05** Paper Talk, with Jay Rayner and Brian Alexander **11.00** Night Extra, with David McNeil includes at **11.15** The *Financial World Tonight* **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night, with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Philip Hodson **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sports Zone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Heritage **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **8.45** Record Progress **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian Books **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Record Progress **3.30** Music Review **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Insider's Guide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Seven Days **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Science in Action **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian Live **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Corelli (Concerto Grosso No 8 in G minor, Op 6) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Bach (Flute Sonata in A major, BWV 1032) **19.00** Classic Showcase **8.00** Evening Concert. Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance March No 1 in D, Op 39; *Enigma Variations*); Orff (*Carmina Burana*) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Mozart (Symphony No 40 in G minor, K550); Bartok (Celtic Symphony); Bach (Trio Sonata in C, BWV529); Korngold (Piano Concerto in C sharp for the left hand) **8.05** Building a Library: Best of the Bunch **8.35** Copland (Sextet) **8.50** An Advent Calendar

9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Brahms (Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op 114); Rachmaninov, arr Dubensky (Vocalise); Weber (Symphony No 1 in C)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Jeremiah Clarke (Trumpet Voluntary); Schutz (Magnificat); Mozart (Horn Quintet in E flat, K407); Johann Strauss, son (The Blue Danube); Bruckner (Lancier-Quadrille); Heuberger (Serenade); Malcolm Williamson (Sinfonietta); Warlock (A Cornish Christmas Carol)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Ernest Chausson and Henri Duparc

1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concerts. Timothy Roberts, fortepiano, The Revolutionary Drawing Room. Rachel Brown, flute, Adrian Butterfield, violin, Peter Collyer, viola, Angela East, cello perform Telemann (Quartet in A for flute, violin, viola and continuo); C.P.E. Bach (Quartet in A minor for fortepiano, flute, viola and cello)

2.00 Preoccupations. Violinist Joshua Bell reveals his competitive streak; Followed by **2.05** Ysaye (Caprice d'apres l'etude en forme de valse de Saint-Saens). Joshua Bell, violin, Royal Philharmonic under Andrew Litton

2.15 Music Restored (r)

3.00 Mining the Archive. Paul Guinery celebrates the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Sir Thomas Beecham's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

5.00 The Music Machine

5.15 In Tune. Berlioz (Overture (Roman Carnival); Howells (Long, Long Ago); Messiaen (Dieu parmi Nous, (La Nativité du Seigneur)

6.46 A Boy Was Born. Live from King's College, Cambridge. BBC Singers, Choristers of King's College, Cambridge, Christopher Hughes, organ, Sioned Williams, harp, conductor Stephen Cleobury. Britten (A Ceremony of Carols); Judith Bingham (Nativity Sequence); **7.35** Interval **7.45** Concert, part 2. Britten (A Boy Was Born)

8.30 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic, Raphael Wallfisch, cello, conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier. Prokofiev (Suite: Lieutenant Kijé); Caplet (Epiphanie)

9.35 Femmes de Siècle, with Margaret Drabble, Fiona Shaw and Michele Roberts

10.00 Hear and Now. A concert given in the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, featuring the Cauld Blast Orchestra plus music from the The Green Room and the Simon Thoumire Three

12.00 Composer of the Week: Simpson (r)

1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs (FM) Ian Dury talks to Sue Lawley (r)

9.00 Test Match Special (LW)

9.45 United States of Anger (FM). A six-part series examining the disillusionment of ordinary Americans. Gavin Esler asks what has happened to the modern-day American heroes (3/6)

10.00 News; Chance in a Lifetime (FM). See Choice

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour (FM). Introduced by Sue Cameron

10.30 Test Match Special (LW)

11.30 The Natural History Programme (FM), with Joanna Pinnock

12.00 News; You and Yours (FM), with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm The Food Programme (FM), with Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.07 Test Match Special (LW)

1.40 The Archers (FM) (r) **1.55** Shipping

2.00 News; Classic Serial: Cyrano de Bergerac (FM). Edmond Rostand's classic play, translated by Anthony Burgess. Cyrano masquerades as his rival to woo the woman of his dreams. With Alex Norton, Emma Fielding and Jonathan Cullen (2/2) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow considers Christmas radio and television and discusses the merits of the programmes.

4.45 Short Story: The De Montfort Essay Cup (r)

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Going Places, with David Stafford

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris Serle

8.05 Any Questions? With David Hart; Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, the Attorney General; Melanie Phillips and Tony Banks, MP

8.50 Ninety Not Out. See Choice

9.15 Letter from America, with Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. An extended interview with Richard Mabey, whose *Flora Britannica* has recently been published after years of research in both libraries and at grass roots (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Pursuit, by Tom Sharpe. Read by Willie Rushton (5/10)

11.00 Week Ending. Topical comedy show with Sally Grace, Melanie Hudson, Jon Glover and Dan Freedman

11.25 Fourth Column

11.45 Better Left Unsaid? Writer and journalist Ken Kulowiak writes a letter to Mostar (r)

12.00 News incl **12.27am** approx weather

12.30 The Late Book: Midnight Tales: The Squaw, by Bram Stoker (5/5) (r)

1.00 As World service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara**

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Guilty, yes, but she is not solely to blame

Matthew Bond

Elizabeth Hurley is not the first actress to make a very bad film; nor, I suppose, will she be the last. But where she is undoubtedly alone is in having the blame for a disaster heaped entirely upon her shapely shoulders. This is most unfair. All sorts of people were very bad in **Samson and Delilah** (Sky 1).

Dennis Hopper, Diana Rigg and Daniel Massey are just three who will not sleep easily in their beds. Nicolas Roeg, who directed it, may never sleep again. Only Michael Gambon can shrug and walk away with his head high. His task was made easier by playing the very reasonable King of the Philistines, a man who believed tongues should be cut out only in emergencies, and by the fact that most of his scenes were played opposite his ridiculously evil son, Prince Sidqa. Next to the unfortunate Ben Becker, Gambon was bound to look good.

Delilah (a heavily kohled Hurley) had relatively little to do in this tiresomely protracted version of the story. Some rather demure sex scenes in a tent, a bit of flirting with General Tariq (Hopper) and she was off to count her several thousand pieces of silver. "A girl's got to look to her future," she explained, pausing only to kiss Tariq and make a mental note to cut out the tongue of whoever bestowed that line upon her.

Much criticism has been heaped upon Hurley's accent, but her Home Counties was just one of umpteen variations on the English language that reflected the fact that this was a television movie produced in Italy and Germany and backed additionally in France, Britain and America. So Samson's accent was continental American, his mother's theatrical English, while most of his pre-Delilah girlfriends spoke Italian-English. No wonder he fell for the first girl he met with neatly clipped vowels.

Delilah, of course, did not enjoy her riches for long, eventually being squashed by a very large column. Given her lifestyle, that seemed appropriate. Samson also died in the temple, a demise that brought to a close a performance from Eric Thal that seemed to have lasted an eternity. At four hours, it very nearly had. No wonder the American critics were in such vicious mood by the end of it. Me? I did my Christmas cards. Hardly cross at all by the close.

Given the mauling **Crocodile Shoes** (BBC1) has received in recent weeks, Jimmy Nail and Hurley could soon be setting up a support group for serially abused actors — or at least they could once they get over the language barrier. But unlike Hurley, Nail has nowhere to hide, nobody else to blame. As the credits lost no time in reminding us, he wrote and created it, he stars in it, executive produced it and wrote the songs. As far as I'm concerned, that makes it his fault.

Anyway, last night's episode was the last one, so things were looking up. "Let's hear it for the country boy," I sang, cheerily looking forward to discovering what it had all been about for the preceding five weeks. But as the great Kylie Minogue once said: "I should be so lucky . . . lucky, lucky, lucky."

It seems that the reason for everything — his manager's death, his financial ruin, et cetera — was something called "a cut-out scam". Not another cut-out scam, I groaned. No, that's not true. A what, I said? But Nail, alias Jed Shepperd, alias Tyneside's answer to Simple Simon, was ahead of me. "So what's a cut-out scam?" he asked his new and so far still alive manager. He explained . . . slowly and at some length. I still didn't understand it, but it seemed to involve deleted records. I wonder whose?

Then it all got very strange. The bad policeman became a goody, the sleazy journalist became the caped crusader and something odd happened to the normal patterns of day and night. As the action shuttled between London and Newcastle at a speed that defied the A1, it could be night-time on the Tyne and broad daylight on the Thames. As Wendy (Liz Carling) was held hostage by the mad Connors, she seemed to pass through three time zones. Not that it mattered, the gallant Jed would have rescued her in any of them and driven the wicked Warren Bowles (Robert Morgan) into a fuel tanker. Bowles and the cut-out scam were history and so, I hope, is *Crocodile Shoes*.

Andy Goldsworthy's work is destined to be history for a very long time, given that his chosen medium at the moment is the dry stone wall. His latest project, we learnt in **The Works: The Stone Diaries** (BBC2) is to renovate 100 stone-walled sheepfolds in Cumbria, restoring them not to their former functional glory but placing a large boulder in the middle. "It looks like we're just putting boulders in a field, but it's not like that at all," explained the slightly defensive Goldsworthy. "It's the way they sit, the choice of stone . . ."

Tim Neil's film was absorbing and enjoyably provocative, playfully contrasting the artist's enthusiasm with the healthy scepticism of local farmers. One minute I could see exactly what Goldsworthy was getting at: "The idea of time is so important to me." The restored sheep-fold could stand for another 50-100 years and even when the walls have crumbled again, the boulders will remain. "The line will always be there."

But just as he convinced me, I suddenly realised he wasn't even doing the walling himself — with the help of an Arts Council grant he'd got the professionals in. This seemed a bit like Van Gogh saying to an assistant: "Here's a nice colour, just daub it on there for me please." Still, if sheep ever discover picnics, those boulders will make lovely tables.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (39056) **7.00** BBC Breakfast News (30407) **9.00** Breakfast News Extra (1624662)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4507681)

9.45 KILROY (6333730)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with Kevin Woodford (55092)

11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (3033914)

11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (5034827)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (8981038)

12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (1929371)

12.05pm ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (r) (3070575)

12.50 THE WEATHER SHOW (30443372)

1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (33594)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (39424858)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (29484914)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (3469)

2.30 PETER SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK Last in series (846)

3.00 INCOGNITO (5204)

3.30 BRUM (r) (7652989) **3.40** Romuald the Reindeer (1968730) **3.50** The Family Ness (r) (6683407) **3.55** Dear Mr Barker Last in series (r) (4402466) **4.10** The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (r) (T) (1572136) **4.35** Grange Hill (7368049) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5919310) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (8228117)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (963662)

6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (575)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (827)

7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (T) (7285)

7.30 TOP OF THE POPS (T) (339)

8.00 DAD'S ARMY Classic comedy with the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard. Starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn (r) (T) (6933)

8.30 2POINT4 CHILDREN The second of a two-part story. Ben has disappeared and Rona returns from the hospital with more than she bargained for (T) (5440)

9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (3440)

9.30 HETTY WAINTHROPP INVESTIGATES The police ask Hetty to investigate a spiritualist for them, but she is not prepared for what she discovers (T) (480049)

10.25 PARKY AT CHRISTMAS Michael Parkinson relives some of the magical moments from his 11 years as a chat show host, before an invited audience (T) (338372) **WALES:** Iris Williams — Song Book **10.55** Parky at Christmas **11.45** FILM: Carry on Loving **1.10am** FILM: Carry on Abroad **2.40** News

11.15 FILM: Carry on Loving (1970) starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey and Joan Sims. Romantic comedy with the *Carry On* gang running a bogus marriage bureau. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (345952)

12.40 am FILM: Carry on Abroad (1972) starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey, Joan Sims and Barbara Windsor. The *Carry On* team cause havoc when they arrive in a Spanish resort on a package holiday. Directed by Gerald Thomas (3299773)

2.10 WEATHER (7149173)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Statistician Strikes Back (7406846) **6.25** The World's Best Athlete (7418681) **6.50** Refining The View (8722643) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (2741730) **7.30** The Legend of Prince Valiant (5679914) **7.50** Smart (5673730) **8.15** Charlie Chalk (7793223) **8.35** Lassie (6716136) **9.00** Brainwaves (3969914) **9.05** Canal Road (9666117) **10.00** Playdays (2177681) **10.25** The Champions (8911556) **11.15** The Phil Silvers Show (4826484) **11.40** Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (9131371) **12.00** Operation Survival (98846) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (26117) **1.00** Charlie Chalk (99407778)

1.15 FILM: Blanche Fury (1948, b/w) Gothic melodrama starring Stewart Granger and Valerie Hobson. Directed by Marc Allégret (T) (769117)

2.45 MR ZOGG'S CLOTHES (3110681) **3.00** News and weather (7870914) **3.05** The Oprah Winfrey Show (3155117) **3.45** Performance (1965843) **3.55** News and weather (6673020) **4.00** Today's the Day (440) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (952) **5.00** Swimming (8391) **5.30** Going, Going, Gone (204)

6.00 THE MUNSTERS (b/w) (T) (965681)

6.25 UFO (r) (T) (308198)

7.15 ELECTRIC CIRCUS (500198)

7.30 TOP GEAR MOTORSPORT Highlights from the motoring calendar (T) (681)

8.00 GLUCK, GLUCK, GLUCK Malcolm travels to Spain, New Zealand and Germany to discover how wine gets its flavour (T) (4575)

8.30 STEFAN BUCZACKI'S GARDENING BRITAIN In the final programme of the series, Stefan visits the magnificent Capability Brown garden in Stowe, Buckinghamshire, where he is joined by a team of experts to offer seasonal advice on protecting plants from the ravages of winter (T) (6310)

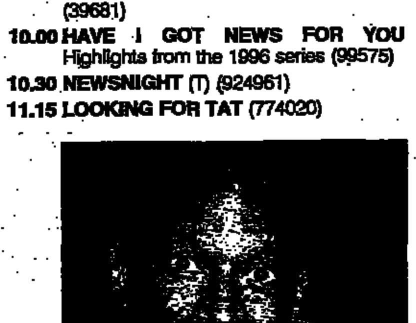
9.00 SHOOTING STARS Celebrity quiz with guests Frank Bough, Clare Grogan, John Thomson and Sarah White (T) (4310)

9.30 RED DWARF VI Last in series (r) (T) (39681)

10.00 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU Highlights from the 1996 series (99575)

10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (924961)

11.15 LOOKING FOR TAT (774020)



Comedian Felix Dexter (11.25pm)

11.25 THE A FORCE The best in black entertainment (15136469)

1.30am FILM: Count of the Old Town (1935, b/w) Comedy thriller starring Ingrid Bergman. Gangsters and bootleggers play hide and seek with the police in Stockholm's Old Town. Directed by Edvin Adolphson and Sigurd Wallen. In Swedish with English subtitles. (9471624). Ends at **2.45**

CHOICE

Gluck, Gluck, Gluck
BBC2, 8.00pm

Not for the first time Malcolm Gluck reports from New Zealand. The country may be better known for sheep farmers and rugby players than fine wines, but as regular viewers of the series will know, Gluck is a champion of the unfashionable. And the New Zealand Sauvignon blanc is much to Gluck's taste. He is also in Spain, applying one of his favourite words (and one surely of his invention), "gluggable", to a red Merlot. This tipple is also characterised by Gluck as "rumbustious, silky and sinful". Gluck may be an iconoclast, but like most wine experts he never uses one adjective when four will do the job better. Connoiseurs of extravagant winespeak may also relish Gluck's description of the Merlot fruit as being "as textured as fine soft cotton". After all this build-up, £6 a bottle seems a snip.

Stefan Buczacki's Gardening Britain
BBC2, 8.30pm

The dapper horticulturalist rounds off an agreeable series by taking his roadshow to Stowe in Buckinghamshire, where the Capability Brown garden with its abundance of temples and monuments offers a striking backdrop for the plant surgery. Assisting the forthright Buczacki in the expert diagnosis of dodgy specimens are nurserywoman Susan Reddin, this newspaper's gardening correspondent, Stephen Anderton, and William Van Hage. There is another job for Van Hage as he takes us round the grounds of Chenies Manor, which has boasted a garden since the Saxon period. We also hear from Wendy Witzman, a former dancer and theatre director. Born in Britain, she returned from America 11 years ago and has worked wonders with the garden at her Tudor inn.

Shooting Stars
BBC2, 9.00pm

The big news this week is that Vic Reeves appears without his glasses. Can it be that having done his best to emulate his hero, Eric Morecambe, in looks, voice and mannerisms, he is now trying to distance himself from the great comic? But if Reeves has discarded his specs the show still, curiously enough, offers a link with Morecambe and Wise. He is none other than Frank Bough, who proves his staying power by hamming it up as shamelessly for Vic and Bob Mortimer as he once did for Eric and Ernie. But if Frank is thinking of a new career as an impressionist, his dreadful Windsor Davies is likely to stop it dead in its tracks. Sarah White from *Brookside*, television presenter Clare Grogan and comedy actor John Thomson, complete the guest panellists.

Doctor Finlay: Snowblind
ITV, 9.00pm

This seasonal special is virtually a four-hander as snow cuts off Arden House and Janet and Dr Napier are forced to stay the night with Finlay and Cameron. It proves to be a less than festive Hogmanay. Cameron (Ian Bannen) has too much to drink, insults Janet (Annette Crosbie) and has a heart attack. He has also been egging on Finlay (David Rintoul) finally to pop the question to Jennifer Napier (Jessica Turner) and end Arden House's tradition of bachelor doctors. Carey Harrison's script will probably mean little to newcomers but friends of the show will enjoy the intense and often testy interplay between the familiar characters. To add to the pleasure, the show is superbly acted. The material may lean towards the sentimental but the scenes between Bannen and Crosbie in particular have an authentic depth and poignancy. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7663049)

9.25 CAPTAIN SIMIAN AND THE SPACE MONKEYS (4591020)

9.50 STEP BY STEP (2559117)

10.20 NEWS (3447730)

10.25 REGIONAL NEWS (3446001)

10.30 FILM: The Trouble with Harry (1955) Comedy thriller starring Edmund Gwenn, John Forsythe and Shirley MacLaine. An old sea captain's friends become involved when he finds a corpse. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (60400469)

12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (5529335)

12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (9489594)

12.55 DR QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN (r) (9228643) **2.00** Home and Away (T) (63167448) **2.25** Murder, She Wrote (r) (60917925) **2.55** Yan Can Cook — The Best of China (6267154)

3.20 NEWS (T) (7887204)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7886575)

3.30 JAYS WORLD (9357317) **3.40** Zzzap! Christmas Annuals (9452961) **3.55** CITV Awards 1996 (8439556)

5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (7043117)

5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (489285)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (969407)

6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (110020)

7.00 CATCHPHRASE (T) (5681)

7.30 CORONATION STREET Alec sets a trap (T) (407)

8.00 THE BILL: A Gun to the Head A judge decides to reveal the name of Beech and Daly's informant (T) (1001)

8.30 FAITH IN THE FUTURE Faith and Hannah escort a coach load of aged art students across the Channel (T) (9376)

Dr Finlay and Dr Napier (9.00pm)

9.00 DOCTOR FINLAY: Snowblind Scores are settled, on the night before Hogmanay in a snowbound Arden House (T) (6407)

10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (86001)

10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (245933))

10.40 FILM: The Odessa File (1974) with Jon Voight and Maximilian Schell. Classic adaptation of the Frederick Forsyth novel about a young reporter who is determined to track down an infamous Nazi war criminal mentioned in the posthumously published diaries of a death camp survivor. Directed by Ronald Neame (T) (24495556)

1.00 FUNNY BUSINESS (39088)

1.30 FILM: THE BLUE IGUANA starring Dylan McDermott, Jessica Harper and James Russo in a *film noir* spoof. Directed by John Lafia (945957)

3.05 BUSHELL ON THE BOX (r) (82404063)

3.35 MTV EUROPE MUSIC AWARDS 1996 (r) (3013599)

5.00 INTERNATIONAL TOURING CARS (r) (96624)

5.30 NEWS (81605)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9464285)

1.25 RELATIVE VALUES (30015846)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29498117)

2.20-3.20 MURDER, SHE WROTE (6261285)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7043117)

6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS AND WEATHER (110020)

1.00am COMEDY CENTRAL (13976)

2.00 CYBER.CAFE (41247)

2.30 Film: INDEPENDENCE (996537)

4.10 HELTER SKELTER (3383266)

5.00 JOBFINDER (8344529)

5.20 ASIAN EYE (1712792)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25pm-12.30 A CHRISTMAS TALE (9392264)

12.55 CORONATION STREET (9464285)

1.25 MASTERCRAFT (30015846)

1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21021198)

2.25 HIGH ROAD (60917925)

2.55-3.20 GARDENERS' DIARY (6267154)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7043117)

6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (21662)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55 DINOSAURS (9464285)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY M0(30015846)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29498117)

2.20-3.20 MURDER, SHE WROTE (6261285)

5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7043117)

5.37 THREE MINUTES — YOUR STORY (664440)

6.00-7.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (21662)

5.00am FREESCREEN (96624)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55pm CROSS WITS (9464285)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30015846)

1.55 MURDER, SHE WROTE (6138846)

2.55-3.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (6267154)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7043117)

6.25 ANGLIA WEATHER (112662)

6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (223)

S4C

Starts: 6.30am THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ (95846) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (23117) **9.00 Film: AT THE EARTH'S CORE** (51069556) **10.40 THE LEGEND OF WHITE FANG** (8722049) **11.05 THE PINK PANTHER** (7505049) **11.30 DOG CITY** (6406533) **11.50 BACK TO THE FUTURE** (8301169) **12.15pm SUPER MARIO BROTHERS** (9195223) **12.30 A BOX FULL OF STORIES** (11285) **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (26204) **1.30 THE BALLOONATIC** (21044049) **1.55 Film: TWO GIRLS AND A SAILOR** (48400594) **4.15 DESPERATELY SEEKING SOMETHING** (845681) **4.45 5 PUMP** (844952) **5.15 COUNTDOWN: THE SUPREME FINAL** (2105020) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (868339) **6.05 HENO** (947285) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (129952) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (247117) **7.25 TERMINAL 3** (498730) **8.00 CEFN GWLAD** (9643) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (8778) **9.00 TU FEWN — TU FAS** (4049) **10.00 BROOKSIDE** (702933) **10.35 CHEERS** (314952) **11.10 THE LLOYDS BANK FILM CHALLENGE** (428339) **11.25 TFI FRIDAY** (100846) **12.20am THE ADAM AND JOE SHOW** (6982841) **1.00 Film: THE SATANIC RITES OF DRACULA** (272353) **2.40 Film: THE DEVILSHIP PIRATES** (7294599)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ (8736846)

7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (23117)

9.00 FILM: At The Earth's Core (1976) Adventure starring Doug McClure and Peter Cushing as Victorian explorers. Directed by Kevin Connor (51069556)

10.40 WHITE FANG (8722049) **11.05** The Pink Panther (7505049) **11.30** Dog City (6406533) **11.50** The Adventures of Tintin(8301169) **12.15pm** Super Mario Bros (9195223) **12.30** A Box Full of Stories (3038198) **12.50** The Nightmare Years (30469310) **1.00** Sesame Street (19240) **2.00** The Living Sea (79462830)

2.25 FILM: The Christmas Stallion (1992) starring Sian MacLean as a 16-year-old orphan whose future is threatened when her grandfather dies. Directed by Peter Edwards (T) (636310)

4.15 COUNTDOWN (T) (1866469)

5.00 TV DINNERS (T) (5989)

5.30 OVER THE GARDEN WALL (r) (T) (372)

6.00 TFI FRIDAY The bands include Sleeper and Black Grape (29204)

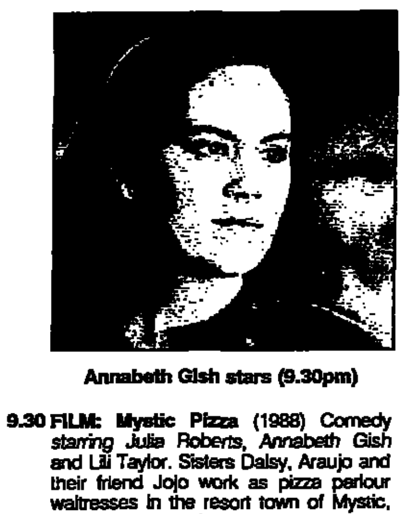
7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (245575)

7.55 THE SLOT (562198)

8.00 LONELY PLANET Justine Shapiro travels to Turkey, where she sees the ruins at Ephesus and attends a traditional wedding (T) (9643)

8.30 BROOKSIDE Has Ron finally pushed Jimmy too far? Nat and Georgia face up to the terrible consequences of their love (T) (8778)

9.00 CAROLINE IN THE CITY: Caroline and the 28lb Walleye Caroline returns home to her delighted parents when the town honours her by naming a park after her (T) (6778)



Annabeth Gish stars (9.30pm)

9.30 FILM: Mystic Pizza (1988) Comedy starring Julia Roberts, Annabeth Gish and Lili Taylor. Sisters Daisy, Araujo and their friend Jojo work as pizza parlour waitresses in the resort town of Mystic, Connecticut. As the season draws to a close, a dramatic turn of events at Jojo's wedding leads to an autumn of romantic adventures for all three friends. Directed by Donald Petrie (620575)

11.25 TFI FRIDAY (r) (925372)

12.30am THE ADAM AND JOE SHOW Tonight the duo compare American and British popular culture (57150)

1.00 FILM: The Satanic Rites of Dracula (1973) starring Christopher Lee as the blood-loving fiend who plans to take over the world by introducing a new strain of bubonic plague. Also starring Peter Cushing. Directed by Alan Gibson (272353)

2.40 FILM: The Devilship Pirates (1964) In 1588 a Spanish pirate persuades Cornish villagers that Drake has been defeated (7294599) Ends at **4.10**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (4149759) 7.20 Press Your Luck (4152223) 7.40 Jeopardy! (2379843) 8.10 Hotel (5724440) 9.00 Another World (8656353) 9.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7074865) 10.40 Real TV (4904778) 11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael (9536778) 12.00 Geraldo (50198) 1.00pm 1 to 3 (27469) 3.00 Jenny Jones (68285) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (78020) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (2372) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (72310) 7.00 M*A*S*H (3001) 7.30 M*A*S*H (6827) 8.00 M*A*S*H (9049) 8.30 M*A*S*H (8556) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (73448) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (63759) 12.00 The New Adventures of Superman (39624) 1.00am L.A.P.D. (80896) 1.30 Real TV (20792) 2.00 Hit Mix Long Play (92995)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1122778) 8.00 Nowhere Man (1108198) 9.00 Models Inc (1111662) 10.00 Fire (1121045) 11.00 Late Show, with David Letterman (1538372) 12.00 FILM: The Blue Lagoon (2946518) 2.00am Hit Mix Long Play (8945082)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Kitty Foyle (1940) (34594) **8.00 Perilous Journey (1953)** (21285) **10.00 Curse of the Viking Grave (1991)** (75407) **12.00 Flipper (1963)** (44136) **2.00pm Airborne (1993)** (73484) **4.00 Dreamer (1979)** (68957020) **5.50 Little Buddha (1993)** (27265778) **8.00 Little Women (1994)** (95285) **10.00 Chasers (1994)** (440515) **11.40 Dangerous Game (1993)** (399049) **1.30am Blue Chips (1994)** (642791) **3.15 The Wrong Man (1993)** (47869)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Tintin: The Seven Crystal Balls and Prisoners of the Sun (1997) (18827) **7.30 Master of the World (1976)** (11914) **8.30 The Magic Adventure (1973)** (24556) **10.00 Tripoli (1950)** (73049) **12.00 My Brother's Keeper (1994)** (42778) **2.00pm Forbidden Memories (1995)** (73466) **4.00 Master of the World (1976)** (61730) **5.00 Les Miserables (1998)** (8310) **6.00 Spring Fling! (1995)** (53469) **7.30 UK Top 10** (2855) **8.00 Speed (1994)** (93827) **10.00 Tales from the Crypt: Demon Knight (1994)** (317285) **11.35 Murder or Memory? (1994)** (182846) **1.10am Not Our Son (1995)** (1259614) **2.40 Second Best (1994)** (445353) **4.25 Spring Fling! (1995)** (85958179)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Bachelor Mother (1939) (8464136) **6.00 Uforia (1980)** (3851575) **8.00 Satisfaction (1988)** (3858020) **10.00 The Naked Gun (1988)** (5948049) **1.30 Nine and a Half Weeks (1985)** (5940778) **1.30am Frankenstein Created Woman (1966)** (5852976) **3.05-5.20 Mutiny on the Bounty (1935)** (22299529)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (4895049) 6.25 Quack Attack (4874556) 6.50 Bonkers (9798136) 7.15 Darkwing Duck (5895038) 7.40 Aladdin (3175136) 8.05 Quack Pack (3678407) 8.30 Timon and Pumbaa (3998440) 8.40 Sing Me a Story, with Belle (8836469) 9.05 Groundling Marsh (5473469) 9.30 Big Garage (3985556) 9.45 Lamb Chop's Play Along! (273440) 10.15 Muppet Babies (8061402) 10.40 Deck the Halls (7490933) 11.10 Mouse Tracks (8825730) 11.40 Under the Umbrella Tree (9080391) 12.10pm Fraggle Rock (3628952) 12.35 Jolly Old St Nicholas (1205556) 1.05 Goof Troop (82969223) 1.30 Aladdin (94114440) 1.55 Darkwing Duck (94139759) 2.25 Bonkers (88815223) 2.50 Have Yourself a Goofy Little Christmas (3000310) 3.20 Timon and Pumbaa (9526846) 3.30 Goof Troop (7607440) 3.55 Timon and Pumbaa (1012759) 4.05 Goof Troop (7662951) 4.35 Bonkers (2197730) 5.00 Aladdin (7329730) 5.25 Timon and Pumbaa (3849759) 5.35 Darkwing Duck (115198) 6.00 Sky Trackers (3391) 6.30 Movie (20681) 8.00 Making of 101 Dalmations (817285) 8.25-10.00 FILM: Home Fires Burning (52659117)

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Sports Centre (51440) 7.00 Racing News (90827) 7.30 Cricket: Zimbabwe v England — Live (1454914) 3.30pm Football: Superstar Coaching — Mark Bosnich (6223) 4.00 Ten Pin Bowling (21136) 4.59 Sports Centre (2764914) 5.00 Football: Netbusters (5488) 6.00 Sports Centre (57135) 7.00 Football: Superstar Coaching — Kevin Keegan (6117) 7.30 Cricket: Zimbabwe v England (88662) 9.30 Hold the Back Page (31117) 10.30 Football: Best of All Time — World XI (74759) 11.30 Sports Centre (81943) 12.30am NHL Ice Hockey (43266) 1.30 Hold the Back Page (49421) 2.30-3.30 Wrestling (39808)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00am Pool: Mosconi Cup 1996 — Live (7233575) 11.00 Rugby League: Big League Classics (3662407) 12.30pm-1.00 Cricket: Second Innings (7105179)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Boxing: Best of All Time (43461285) 1.00pm Football League Review (43470933) 2.00 Pool: Mosconi Cup 1996 — Live (99884618) 5.00 World Sport Special (41921020) 5.30 World of Sailing (63611556) *6.00 Bud Surfing Tour* (43467469) 7.00 Football: Southend United v Birmingham City — Live (36478827) 10.00 The Rugby Club (41841643) 11.00-12.00 Wrestling (60446310)

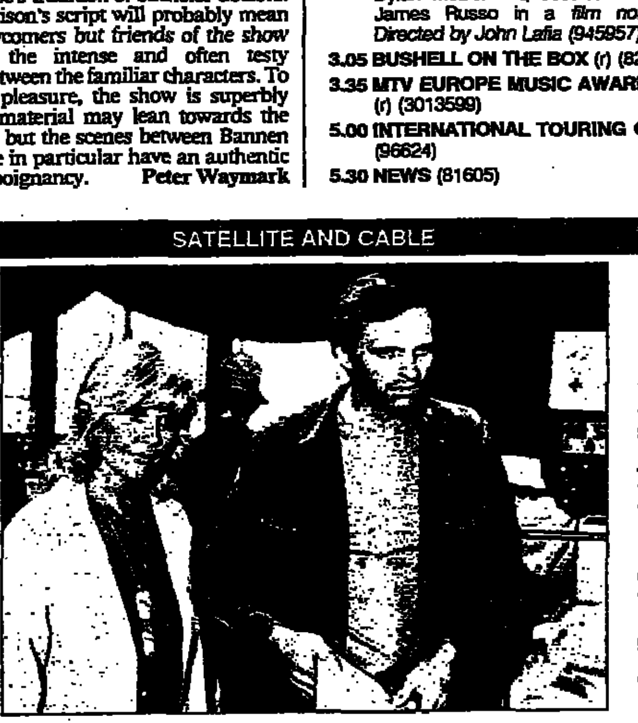
EUROSPORT

7.30am Olympic Magazine (97730) 8.00 Triathlon: Hawaii Ironman (69730) 9.30 Freestyle Skiing (30469) 10.00 Alpine Skiing — Live (83914) 11.00 Football (83469) 1.00pm Freestyle Skiing — Live (22440) 2.00 Alpine Skiing (78117) 3.00 Car Racing (41399) 4.00 International Motorsports Report (16204) 5.00 Alpine Skiing (4876) 6.00 Motorcycling (42204) 7.00 All Sports: HAVOC Series (44575) 8.00 Offroad (53223) 9.00 Equestrianism — Live (40759) 10.00 Sumo (43846) 11.00 Snowboarding (17933) 11.30 Olympic Magazine (66372) 12.00-12.30 Pool: 1996 World Trickshot Championship (62518)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5682759) 6.30 Tickle on the Tum (29259488) 6.45 Time for a Story (82759691) 7.00 Allsorts (7150556) 7.15 Tickle on the Tum (8155136) 7.30 Catweazle (1133933) 8.00 Classic Coronation Street (1454204) 8.30 The Krypton Factor (1453575) 9.00 Families (1444827) 9.30 Albion Market (5964730) 10.00 What the Papers Say (7750198) 10.20 The Day (8358643) 10.30 Nearest and Dearest (1473339) 11.00 Shabby Tiger (1142681) 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (1457391) 12.30pm Watching (5975846) 1.00 Adam Smith (1120469) 1.30 Families (5974117) 2.00 This Year, Next Year (6958575) 3.00 Nearest and Dearest (1544827) 3.30 What the Papers Say (71822204) 3.50 The Day (24370812) 4.00 All for Love (2087372) 5.00 Shabby Tiger (1568407) 6.00 Classic Coronation Street (1333914) 6.30 Families (1357594) 7.00 Doing Their Thing (1569136) 7.30 Watching (1353778) 8.00 The XYY Man (8376001) 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (2809681) 9.35 The Good Life Guide (2867488) 10.00-11.00 All for Love (6399852)

From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors



*Alan Alda and Loretta Swit in M*A*S*H (Sky 1, 7.00pm)*

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features

From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith

From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health

From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Charlie Chaplin (2741594) 5.00 Ancient Mysteries (4987778) 7.00-8.00 Biography: The Virgin Mary (8430681)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from 8pm-4am Monday to Wednesday and 1am-4am Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from 8am-4am every day on cable

1.00am The Twilight Zone (6454808) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (6028860) 2.00 New Alfred Hitchcock (3968686) 2.30 Rod Serling's Night Gallery (3978421) 3.00-4.00 Friday the 13th (2967570)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4539310) 9.30 Gardeners' Diary (2813049) 10.00 Go Fishing (9191117) 10.30 Hometime (4535594) 11.00 The Restoration Game (1217285) 11.30 Craftwise (1218914) 12.00 Two's Country Cooking (4528846) 12.30pm Graham Kerr (2817865) 1.00 Yan Can Cook (1857643) 1.30 Home Again (2816136) 2.00 Furniture to Go (7777488) 2.30 Grow Your Greens (8010020) 3.00 Fishing Adventures (7789223) 3.30-4.00 This Old House (8022865)

DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.

4.00pm Fishing Adventures (8001372) 4.30 Roadshow (8007556) 5.00 Time Travellers (7751440) 5.30 Terra X (8021136) 6.00 Untamed Africa (2892556) 7.00 Next Step (7771204) 7.30 World of Strange Powers (8008285) 8.00 Natural Born Killers (1535662) 9.00 Justice Files (1522198) 10.00 Best of British (1525285) 11.00 Fields of Armour (1232594) 11.30 Fields of Armour (9180001) 12.00 Classic Wheels (8054334) 1.00am The Extremists (5402179) 1.30-2.00 Brazil Special Forces (7882247)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2538575) 7.35 Crossroads (2222914) 8.00 Neighbours (9875594) 8.25 EastEnders (2224488) 9.00 The Bill (4508440) 9.30 Colditz (8792575) *10.30 The Sullivans (4537952) 11.00* The Onedin Line (1855285) 12.00 Crossroads (40444001) 12.25pm Neighbours (40454488) 12.55 EastEnders (1447285) 1.30 Odd Man Out (2818594) 2.00 The Two Ronnies (9194204) 3.00 Sale of the Century (7781681) 3.30 The Bill (8024223) 4.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1233223) 5.00 EastEnders (6831865) 5.35 Crossroads (6861914) 6.00 You Rang M'Lord? (2894914) *7.00 Bob's Full House* (3232020) 7.45 The Best of Top of the Pops (1163469) 8.25 Ever Decreasing Circles (2532556) 9.00 Casualty (28039587) 10.05 The Bill (4991662) 10.40 Miami Vice (4856339) 11.35 FILM: Escape from Sobibor (97102285) 2.10am Shopping (15095599)

TCC

6.00am *Swan's Crossing* (4877843) 6.20 Meltdown (4888759) 6.45 Halfway Across the Galaxy (747440) 7.15 Ready or Not (777681) 7.45 California Dreams (776952) 8.15 Sweet Valley High (288759) 8.45 Art Attack (8203391) 9.00 Tiny TCC (9585020) 9.20 Brum (9572556) 9.40 Johnson and Friends (5134028) 10.00 Cockleshell Bay (1118371) 10.20 Philbert the Frog (6293575) 10.40 Charlie Chalk (4180117) 11.00 Dinobabies (41914) 11.30 Animal Show (42643) 12.00 Barney (48914) 12.30pm Where's Wally? (76285) 1.00 Casper and Friends (98594) 1.30 Tiny and Crew (94127914) 1.55 Johnson and Friends (41808846) 2.20 Bump (13697371) 2.40 Mr Benn (2964988) 3.00 Halfway Across the Galaxy (8594) 3.30 Ready or Not (5551) 4.00 California Dreams (6488) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley High (5372)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Turtles (57448) 6.30 Biker Mice from Mars (82310) 7.00 Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (98469) 7.30 Tales from the Cryptkeeper (60484) 8.00 Mighty Max (38371) 8.30 Hey Arnold (88812) 9.00 Rugrats (12136) 10.00 Real Monsters (73682) 10.30 Doug (28136) 11.00 Rocko's Modern Life (91858) 11.30 Pete and Pete (41317) 12.00 Alex Mack (19488) 12.30pm Ren and Stimpy (47759) 1.00 The Ferals (80440) 1.30 Space Cases (39730) 2.00 Clarissa (3643) 2.30 Doug (2020) 3.00 Real Monsters (2778) 3.30 Stickin' Around (4865) 4.00 Bruno the Kid (3372) 4.30 Rugrats (9558) 5.00 Sister Sister (6730) 6.00 Moesha (3579) 6.30-7.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (4001)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (4759) 7.30 Benson (3335) 8.00 Due South (33469) 9.00 Almost Perfect (18882) 9.30 Taxi (50223) 10.00 Entertainment UK (10117) 10.30 Girls on Top (29865) 11.00 Barry Welsh is Coming (20407) 11.30 Nightstand (81925) 12.30am Sledge Hammer! (28686) 1.00 Due South (30792) 2.00 Entertainment UK (68063) 2.30 Barry Welsh is Coming (47570) 3.00 Girls on Top (44808) 3.30-4.00 Almost Perfect (61150)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2890198) 1.00pm Remington Steele (2809846) 2.00 Manimal (9189372) 3.00 Fantasy Island (1216556) 4.00 Moses (7787965) 6.00 Thunderbirds (2812310) 7.00 The Champions (1513440) 8.00 Starsky and Hutch (1539488) 9.00 Crime Story (1542952) 10.00-12.00 FILM: Zombie Flesh Eaters (1215827)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1139407) 7.00 The Agony Experience (1766952) 7.30 The Young and the Restless (3138730) 8.20 Michael Barry's Choice Cuts (1024556) 8.55 Turnabout (8329662) 9.35 Trivial Pursuit (8686495) 10.00 Entertainment Now! (6398117) 10.05 The Jerry Springer Show (1898339) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (1497730) 11.55 Food and Drink (22129865) 12.25pm Call the Doctor (40815136) 12.50 Gabrielle (2599285) 1.40 Rolonda (9166198) 2.30 The Agony Experience (2030594) 3.00 Live at Three (5072662) 4.00 Who's Sorry Now? (2021846) 4.30 Talkabout (2288865) 5.05 Lingo (45467372) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (2034310) 6.00 I Dream of Jeannie (2031223) 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (3139515) 7.05 The New Mr and Mrs Show (4957843) 7.35 Trivial Pursuit (4598488) 8.00 General Practice (3850846) 9.00 FILM: Nightmare at Bitter Creek (26526778) 10.50 Entertainment Now! (8737223) 11.00 The Spicy Sex Files (5089198)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (1169) 5.30 Treasure Hunt (54594) 6.30 Catchphrase (7117) 7.00 The Pyramid Game (1925) 7.30 Hart to Hart (69001) 8.30 Only When I Laugh (8730) 9.00 Bergerac (99049) 10.00 Stay Lucky (92136) 11.00 Bagdad Cafe (66223) 11.30 FM (47372) 12.00 Lou Grant (18808) 1.00am Bergerac (93808) 2.00 Hart to Hart (20402) 3.00 Lou Grant (34792) 4.00 All Together Now (95131) 4.30-5.00 The Black Stallion (74063)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran 7.30 Lifestyle East 8.30 Campus 9.00 Shri Krishna 9.30 Chewre 10.00 Hasratein 10.30 Kachwa Aur Kharagosh 11.00 Cookery Programme Zaike Ka Safar 11.30 Tari Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup 12.00 Andaz 12.30pm *Nukkad* 1.00 Bengali Movie 4.00 Mere Saath Chal 4.30 Sona Chandi 5.00 Zee Zone 5.30 Zee Super Model Competition Part One 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 BBCD 7.30 Aahaa 8.00 News and Euronews 8.30 Antakshari 9.05-12.00 Hit Star Season: Ajay Devgan

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.

9.00pm Knights of the Round Table (1953) (41869049) **11.00 The Shop Around the Corner (1940)** (71041285) **12.45am The Hill (1965)** (81292150) **2.55-5.00 Knights of the Round Table (1953)** (54311112)

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Chick Corea 8.00 The Love of Three Oranges 10.00 Margot Fonteyn 11.30 Arta 12.00 Pharoh Sanders

[illegible] 150

هكذا عن الأصل

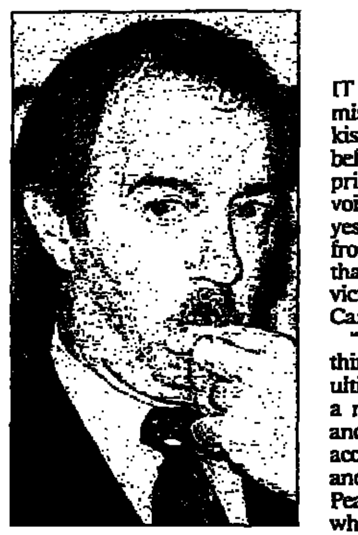
POOL 34
Steve Davis dropped
in deep end
by new challenge

SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM 37
Festive thrills
aplenty at
Olympia show

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

Forest forced to seek Psycho therapy



Clark: resigned

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

IT IS becoming as traditional as mistletoe: a top football manager kissing his job goodbye in the week before Christmas. Frank Clark, a principled and decent man, the very voice of reason among managers, yesterday explained his resignation from Nottingham Forest, a team that has gone 16 games without victory and is at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership.

"I have just about run out of things to do, so I've done the ultimate." Clark said. "Sometimes, a manager leaving can be a help, and I hope that Stuart Pearce will accept the board's offer to take over, and give the team a short-term lift." Pearce, the motivator and marauder whose tenacity earned the nickname "Psycho", is deliberating over the offer. But he likes a challenge, and when, almost certainly, he takes up the post of acting manager this morning, he will get two of them: Arsenal at home tomorrow and Manchester United at the City Ground on Boxing Day.

When Clark, a humorous man behind his sometimes lugubrious mask, speaks of the kickstart a change of manager might bring to Forest, the word kick could be appropriate. For what if Pearce takes up the challenge and gets himself sent off in leading by example (he has been lucky not to be shown the red card twice in recent games)? What good is a leader in the sin bin?

In truth, Clark seems to be acknowledging that, at a club without money, with its immediate future unknown, with the manager's authority undermined from day one of this season, someone of a different approach might stir the players.

Where, meanwhile, does Clark go? He needs a job, at 53 he still has the appetite to manage day-to-day in football, and the assumption is rife in the game that Manchester City, the poisoned chalice, is his for the taking. Clark said yesterday that he has had no contact with City or anyone else in English football. It will not be long in coming, for, with a settled boardroom, he has proven qualities, and Christmas is seldom a time when a solitary manager is parted from his club.

This time last year, Clark was *the* perceived success among *British* managers. His was the only club from these islands still in Europe, reaching the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup. But, crucially, he had lost Stan Collymore, who insisted on leaving for Liverpool. He had lost Lars Bohinen, who also defected, to Blackburn Rovers. And when he lost Steve Stone, an England winger, to long-term injury, Forest's resources were too thin to replace them all.

He bought badly in Andrea Silenzi, he found Bryan Roy did not have the temperament to follow a splendid first season with another, and Kevin Campbell has lapsed into indifferent form between more injuries. Yet a manager who inherited depression on the Trent after the departure of Brian Clough, had wheeled and dealed to a turnover of £40 million — split right down the middle in sales and purchases — despite the albatross of an archaic club committee structure and accumulated debts of over £12 million.

Clark, a player who came late to the professional game after training as a laboratory assistant, knew how to master the chemistry of a very special club challenge. The ghost, and some say the skeletons, of Clough did not deter him. He rebuilt, he told the truth, and even when the FA sought his advice on the failings of the English game and the relative success in Europe by Forest, he had this to say: "We've had to play every game in a cagey way to get this far. We've not been able to go out and play an expansive, attractive game, because we are not good enough. Until we improve the development of our young players, we [the English] will always be that little bit inferior technically."

He could cope, this thoughtful man, with most things football could throw at him. He was a left back, like Pearce, and one who had a reputation for fairness stretching from his days as an Amateur Cup winner with Crook Town to his years as a Forest player when, under Clough, he won the championship and the European Cup.

Whether it is Pearce in the long term or not, the reality of managing Forest rests on a decision on January 6 of an extraordinary general meeting. Its duty is to decide between two consortiums, one led by Sandy Anderson, a millionaire from Scotland working in Derbyshire, or one fronted by the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, Irving Scholar, offering the millions of Monte Carlo-based Lawrie Lewis.

The wrangling over Forest's takeover has been so messy that it has also attracted some dubious bids, allegedly even a Norwegian one involving the agent, Rune Hauge, who is back in operation after being struck off for illegal transfer activity.

Atherton's fall caps worrying day for England

From Simon Wilde in Bulawayo

BULAWAYO (second day of five): England, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 328 runs behind Zimbabwe

IF ENGLAND had the better of the opening day of the first Test match against Zimbabwe at Queens Club, there was no doubting that they had the worst of the second. Showing all the character they had promised to exhibit in the inaugural Test between the countries, Zimbabwe extended their first innings well into the afternoon to a total of 376 and then struck an important blow — the full impact of which has yet to be felt — in the 50 minutes before tea.

Nick Knight and Michael Atherton began England's innings in encouraging style, positive in outlook and untroubled by a surface that promises little help to seam bowlers for the duration of the match. The three used by Zimbabwe, Streak, Bryan Strang and Olonga, whose one wayward over cost ten runs, did not threaten their equilibrium and it is already reasonable to assume that Zimbabwe's main hope of keeping England's batsmen in check is through their one slow bowler, Paul Strang, the leg spinner, exploiting the patches of rough that the pitch is developing.

It was thus unfortunate for England that Strang, having been introduced for a couple of exploratory overs before the interval, should remove their most valuable batsmen, Atherton, with his eleventh ball.

Strang is a small man whose pace is quicker than most of his breed and it was a delivery that he pushed through that trapped the England captain leg-before. Atherton, whose footwork had been exemplary up to that point, went back and played a stroke that was uncharacteristically late.

Tea was taken immediately and as Atherton trudged from the field, ahead of the other players, the first rolls of thunder were heard, presaging the storm that was to wash out the final session but not, the England camp must hope, proving symbolic with regard to the significance of Atherton's departure.

The hiatus created by the rain was welcome in one way, in that Stewart, the next man at the crease, was thus reprieved from returning to the fray only 70 minutes after completing nine hours behind the stumps. That said, minutes from the end of those nine hours, Stewart took a sharp running catch to dismiss Zimbabwe's century-maker, Andy Flower, off a top-edged sweep, to give Tufnell his first Test wicket for two years.

The early finish gave England ample time to rue the loss of the player who has so often been at the centre of their best batting performances to the mode of bowling that has lately embarrassed them most. "To lose that wicket to leg spin was a disappointment," David Lloyd, the England coach, said. "This leg spinner takes his wickets at 65. We don't want to put any demons into the heads of our batsmen. He is quick for a leg spinner — we have got to play forward."

If Atherton's dismissal was a disappointment — extending his first-class record on tour to 84 runs from five innings — it was not the most unhappy aspect of England's day. That, again, was their bowling. With the exception, again, of Croft it was uniformly unimpressive and makes a mockery of Lloyd's aim of finding an attack with a "cutting edge" capable of discomforting Australia next year.

If they were watching the morning session, on television in the bars of Sydney, the locals must have laughed into their beers as England struggled to take just one wicket in the session — and that with a full toss. Bowled by Silverwood, it accounted for Paul Strang after a vibrant 38.

By then, Andy Flower, 58 overnight, had dug himself in again and, with Streak providing effortless support, reached the third Test century of his career half an hour into the afternoon session with an impish reverse sweep for four off Tufnell. It took him 5½ hours, an hour of which was spent getting through the nineties, and was a thoroughly well-organised innings.

He came in on Wednesday with his side 136 for three, having lost two wickets in four overs, and oversaw the addition of 236 more runs. For a long time yesterday, it looked as though England would be facing a total of 450 plus but the last three wickets went in two overs.

Flower is a cricketer down to his boot-straps. He has made runs regularly for his country, captained them and keeps wickets for them. He stands for no nonsense and when Mullally's response to being pulled to the mid-wicket boundary was to unleash a bouncer, and verbal rejoinders, Flower simply touched the peak of his cap.

Mullally has been propelled by a pretty feeble breeze in this match, but that quite took what wind there was out of his sails.

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT

The England captain, left, trudges towards the pavilion as the jubilant Paul Strang celebrates the success of his appeal for leg-before

BULAWAYO SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G W Flower c Hussain b Silverwood ... 43
(151min, 100 balls, 5 fours)
S V Carlisle c Crawley b Gough ... 0
(7min, 3 balls)
*A D R Campbell c Silverwood b Croft ... 84
(156min, 136 balls, 13 fours)
D L Houghton c Stewart b Croft ... 34
(99min, 60 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)
†A Flower c Stewart b Tufnell ... 112
(366min, 331 balls, 12 fours)
A C Waller c Crawley b Croft ... 15
(53min, 47 balls, 1 four)
G J Whittall c Atherton b Silverwood ... 7
(37min, 30 balls, 1 four)
P A Strang c Tufnell b Silverwood ... 38
(106min, 69 balls, 7 fours)
H H Streak b Mullally ... 19
(72min, 60 balls, 2 fours)
B C Strang not out ... 4
(6min, 2 balls, 1 four)
H R Olonga c Knight b Tufnell ... 0
(2min, 4 balls)
Extras (lb 4, w 3, nb 13) ... 20
Total (137.5 overs, 533min) ... 376

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (G W Flower 2), 2-130 (Campbell 80), 3-136 (Houghton 2), 4-206 (A Flower 35), 5-235 (A Flower 47), 6-252 (A Flower 54), 7-331 (A Flower 91), 8-372 (A Flower 112), 9-376 (B C Strang 4).

BOWLING: Mullally 23-4-69-1 (nb 1, w 2; 10 fours; 5-1-19-0, 3-1-11-0, 4-0-9-0, 2-1-4-0, 5-1-11-0, 2-0-2-0, 2-0-13-1); Gough 26-4-87-1 (nb 5, w 1, 9 fours; 6-3-13-1, 4-0-18-0, 5-1-16-0, 4-0-15-0, 2-0-10-0, 5-0-17-0); Silverwood 18-5-63-3 (nb 6; 9 fours; 4-0-25-0, 6-1-25-1, 3-3-0-1, 5-1-13-1); Croft 44-15-77-3 (1 six, 9 fours; 5-1-16-0, 11-4-22-1, 12-6-7-2, 3-1-9-0, 8-3-9-0, 5-0-14-0); Tufnell 26.5-4-76-2 (nb 3; 8 fours; 3-0-6-0, 4-0-19-0, 8-2-19-0, 4-0-18-0, 7.5-2-12-2).

SCORING NOTES (Second day): Lunch: 337-7 (123 overs, 483min: A Flower 94, Streak 3).

ENGLAND: First Innings

N V Knight not out ... 29
(57min, 43 balls, 4 fours)
*M A Atherton lbw b P A Strang ... 16
(57min, 43 balls, 2 fours)
Extras (nb 3) ... 3
Total (1 wkt, 13.5 overs, 57min) ... 48

†A J Stewart, G P Thorpe, N Hussain, J P Crawley, R D B Croft, D Gough, A D Mullally, C E W Silverwood and P C R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-48 (Knight 29).

BOWLING: Streak 6-2-11-0 (nb 2; 2 fours), B C Strang 5-0-21-0 (2 fours); P A Strang 1.5-0-6-1 (1 four); Olonga 1-0-10-0 (nb 1, 1 four); one spell each.

SCORING NOTES (Second day): Tea: 48-1 (13.5 overs, 57min; Knight 29). Rain commenced at 2.55pm. Play abandoned at 4 40pm.

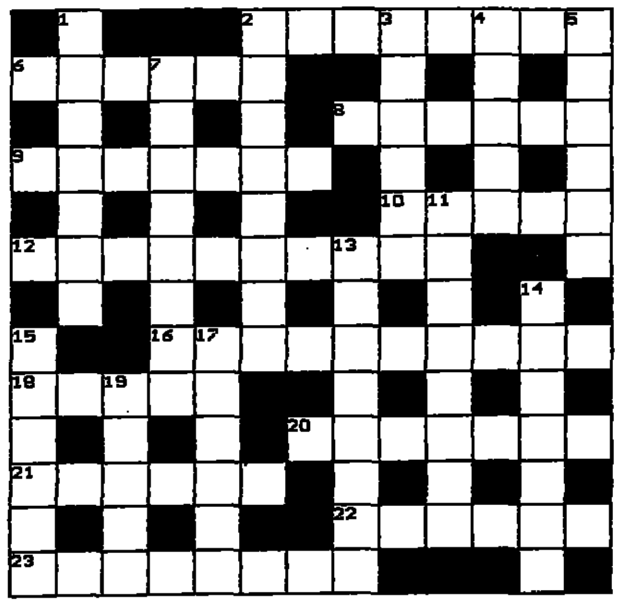
Umpires: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and I D Richardson. Third umpire: R B Tiffin.

Match referee: Hanumant Singh (India).

TEST TO COME: Second (Harare): December 26-30.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 970

ACROSS
- 2 Disregard (4,4); Jewish feast (8)
- 6 Haitian witchcraft (6)
- 8 Feeling of dread, loathing (6)
- 9 Country in which *Hamlet* set (7)
- 10 Prevent from happening (5)
- 12 Blackmore's Exmoor story (5,5)
- 16 Solo operator (3-3,4)
- 18 Little cake: had coronation Stone (5)
- 20 Unfriendly (7)
- 21 Second OT book, describes 2 *ac* (6)
- 22 Effectively resistant (6)
- 23 Weedy sea (8)

DOWN
- 1 One way or another (7)
- 2 Breakfast food: prison term (8)
- 3 Advertiser's catchphrase (6)
- 4 Grassy roadside (5)
- 5 Unusual item (6)
- 7 Authority, sway (8)
- 11 Word for word (8)
- 13 Piece of music such as *Messiah* (8)
- 14 Tend; a slope (7)
- 15 Weigh up (6)
- 17 Star group as fuzzy cloud (6)
- 19 Scent (5)

The solution to 969 will be published on Tuesday, December 24

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Silence marks beginning of the end

Lucy Duncan, on board *Concert*, on her losing battle with the Southern Ocean

TWENTY-FOUR hours ago we were bouncing along on the crest of the waves in the Southern Ocean, just coming into third place on the second leg of the BT Global Challenge and allowing ourselves to contemplate repeating our success in the first leg. In a short space of time that situation has changed dramatically, for we are now under motor power and heading for the Chatham Islands, 420 miles southeast of Wellington.

My first inkling that anything untoward had happened was when being awoken from a light sleep by a loud thud, followed by an eerie silence and a total alteration in the motion of the boat. Previously, we had been riding the waves, but now we were simply wallowing from side to side.

Accompanied by most of the rest of the watch, I poked my head above deck to see our once-solid mast snapped in two places, like a broken twig.

Stuart Pask was the watch leader on deck at the time. "Initially the boom dropped onto the vang as if the main halyard had broken," he said. "As I looked up, I saw the mast breaking. The top section lay along the port side in the water, connected by wire rigging and halyards. The mid-section lay at an angle from the top of the lower section to the waterline."

Mathew Fletcher, who was on the helm, described coming off a wave into a trough as we have done many times before, to find the main suddenly go slack. Before he knew it, the mast was in the water. The situation was dealt with incredibly quickly and there was a total absence of panic.

At the moment it is too early to speculate on why the rig failed — we were not sailing the boat hard.

My initial thoughts, once the enormity of what had happened had struck home, were that this was the end of the racing. We felt we were competitive and thoroughly enjoyed pitting ourselves against the other boats. We will just have to do it on an individual-leg basis instead.

One of the best things to come out of the past 24 hours is the response of our crew and all the other crews to our predicament. Not one person has been heard to moan or complain. Offers of support have poured in from all the other crews. However, our only immediate need was for more fuel, which was provided by *Motorola* in the late evening. Transferring cans of fuel in the choppy seas was not easy, but was achieved with the minimum of fuss.

Having not seen another boat for weeks, it was wonderful to see *Motorola* appear out of the Southern Ocean mist. It was equally emotional to see her hoist her staysail and disappear back into the race, leaving us to plod on under engine power. Still, I am told that the Chatham Islands are not somewhere that many people get the opportunity to see . . .

Race positions, page 34
Rig mystery, page 37

DIAMONDS MAY BE FOREVER...

...ARTHRITIS NEEDN'T

There are many forms of arthritic and rheumatic disease which affect men, women and children in Britain today, causing unrelenting pain and disability in hands, wrists and joints throughout the body.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 1996 and is the only major UK charity financing medical research into osteoarthritis and rheumatic diseases at most university hospitals and medical schools in the UK.

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REMEMBER-ARTHRITIS RESPECTS NOBODY

Latin American guerrillas' love of money vies with sense of social justice

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

SEVERAL representatives of top Japanese firms — including carmakers Toyota and Mitsubishi, electrical goods manufacturers NEC and Matsushita, and the mining firm Mitsui — are among the hostages.

Japan's business presence has risen substantially in mineral-rich Peru during the Fujimori presidency, with investments of more than $750 million (£450 million).

MOTIVE

The guerrillas' main demand involves the release of several hundred of their comrades jailed in Peru and in neighbouring countries, including Bolivia and Uruguay. The guerrillas are also demanding payment of an unspecified amount through a "war tax".

Japan, and Japanese corporations have an increasing reputation for rapidly caving in to extortion. When a senior executive of the Sanyo electronics giant was kidnapped in Mexico last August, the company quickly paid a $2 million ransom to secure his release.

Analysts say the time when Latin American guerrillas fought for democracy and sought social justice is long gone, save perhaps for the Zapatista rebel army in southern Mexico. "These days it's all about money," said Eduardo Gamarra, a Bolivian academic. "Most of the guerrilla groups operating in the region today have been corrupted by money and are little more than common criminals."

Peruvian experts agree that the Cuban and Libyan-trained Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amarú has a well-proven track record of financing its operation through extortion and kidnapping, which it likes to call "war taxes". Last year the group kidnapped a leading Bolivian businessman who was released after a $1 million ransom was paid. The guerrillas were later captured by police and are among those whose release is being sought by those occupying the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima.

"These people are technically very good at the mechanics of kidnapping," said Gustavo Gorriti, a newspaper editor and expert on Peruvian armed groups. "They have made a lot of money with a number of high-profile and financially rewarding kidnappings."

But at the same time, Gorriti says, factions of the group have been less corrupted by money, retaining "a relatively high degree of political conviction".

Money may be part of their motivation, Gorriti said, but their political survival is also a result of military repression by President Fujimori's Government and the military intelligence services.

Spurning guerrilla offers to negotiate an end to the struggle, the Government chose to try to wipe *them out. "In some ways, these* people didn't have much of a choice if they wanted to maintain any level of existence," Gorriti said. "Señor Fujimori is reaping what he has sown with the inadequacies of his counter-insurgency policy."

SAS team enters Lima arena as proven winners

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Special Air Service has taken on a high-risk mission in Lima, confronted by an enemy dedicated to its cause and prepared to die for it.

The Marxist Tupac Amarú Revolutionary Movement has a long history of violence and any plan to storm the Japanese Ambassador's residence to release the hostages could lead to a bloodbath.

The challenge for the small SAS team sent from the Hereford headquarters of the British Army's elite regiment is that expectations of their ability to resolve the siege will be high, even though their role in this incident is to be strictly advisory. They are there to add their experience to any American special forces team which is sent to Peru.

The SAS has acquired such legendary operational status that its expertise and experience have been called upon by foreign governments around the globe. Men from 22 SAS, the regular army regiment, have turned up in Somalia, Gambia, and even the United States to offer their help and advice.

One SAS man was believed to have been present at the doomed Waco siege in Texas in April 1993 which ended in disaster when armed American police stormed the fortress home of David Koresh and his followers. The SAS liaison man is understood to have advised against the action.

In Lima, however, there are some additional factors that seem likely to argue against storming the Japanese residence, except as a last resort. Not least is the number of hostages involved, their different nationalities and the likelihood that they are split into different areas of the residence.

If the terrorists begin shooting hostages, there may be no option but to send in the troops. However, until then, the emphasis is likely to be a "softly-softly" approach — relying on the quiet, even boring tones of the civilian negotiators.

The six SAS men sent to Lima come from the regiment's counter-revolutionary warfare wing, which includes a counter-terrorist team and a special unit prepared at 24 hours' notice to go to a British embassy anywhere in the world to advise or assist an ambassador in trouble. The half dozen men are believed to consist of four instructors from the counter-revolutionary warfare wing, all senior non-commissioned officers, and two officers.

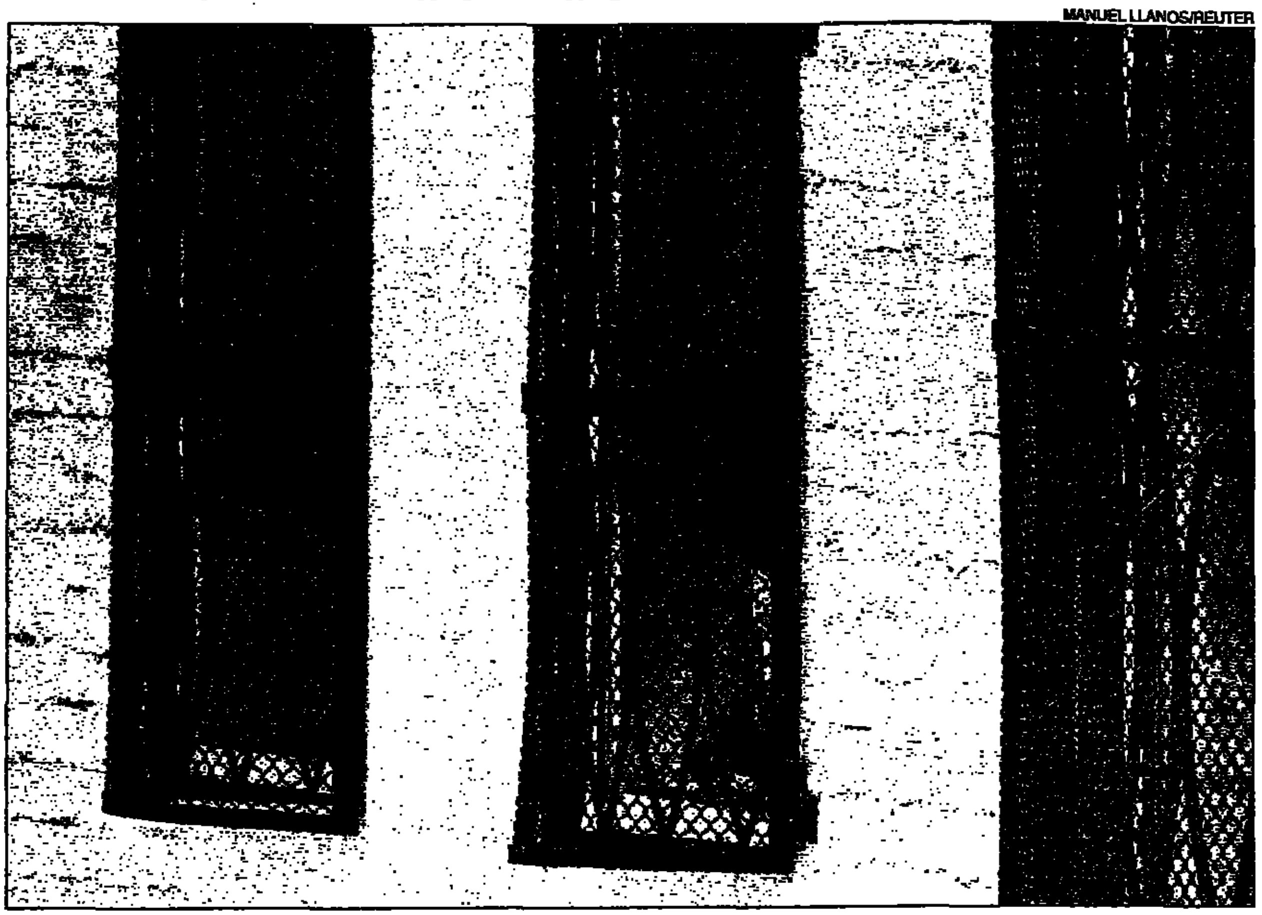
Although their role will be strictly advisory, past experience has shown that SAS "advisors" tend to get involved on the operational side. This was the case in Gambia and in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, where the SAS played a crucial part in bringing to an end a hijack in the former case and an armed insurrection in the latter.

In October 1977 four Palestinians hijacked a Lufthansa airliner and demanded the release of the jailed leaders of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist organisation. The airliner finally landed in Mogadishu. The pilot had been murdered and his body was thrown onto the runway.

The Germans asked for British help and two SAS men were sent as liaison personnel to join a German GSG9 special forces team. With no hope of a peaceful end to the hijack, the SAS men drew up a plan and joined the team in storming the aircraft. Three of the four hostages were killed and the passengers were freed.

The SAS's most public operation was the storming of the Iranian Embassy at Princes Gate in 1980. They used entry techniques which demonstrated the regiment's ability to act fast and aggressively. Explosive devices helped to disorientate the six terrorists — and the 20 hostages — and bring to an end a siege which had lasted for six days.

MANUEL LLANOS/REUTER



Two unidentified men watch from inside the Japanese Ambassador's residence, which was seized by gunmen

Emperor's birthday celebration cancelled

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Imperial Palace announced yesterday that it will cancel its official celebrations of Emperor Akihito's sixty-third birthday because of the terrorist incident in Peru.

The celebrations, to be held next Monday, normally include a banquet, a reception for foreign diplomats and the emperor's greetings to well-wishers from a palace verandah.

The decision was made at the request of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, according to a statement released by Sadame Kamakura, head of the Imperial Household Agency.

The opening of the plaza for the emperor's annual greetings is one of the few opportunities the average Japanese has to view the palace grounds.

Moves to free jailed US rebel jeopardised

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE siege is a blow to the hopes of a New York couple who have been campaigning all year for the release of their daughter from a Peruvian prison.

Mark and Rhoda Berenson, both teachers, last month visited Lori, 27, in a crude jail near the Andes. She was sentenced to life earlier this year for belonging to the Tupac Amarú Revolutionary Movement.

The Tupac terrorists have named Lori Berenson as one of the prisoners they want released, among other demands.

Before this week's developments, the Berensons were quietly optimistic that, with discreet diplomatic assistance and pressure from human rights groups, they could win a reduction in her sentence and improve her jail conditions.

FAMILY

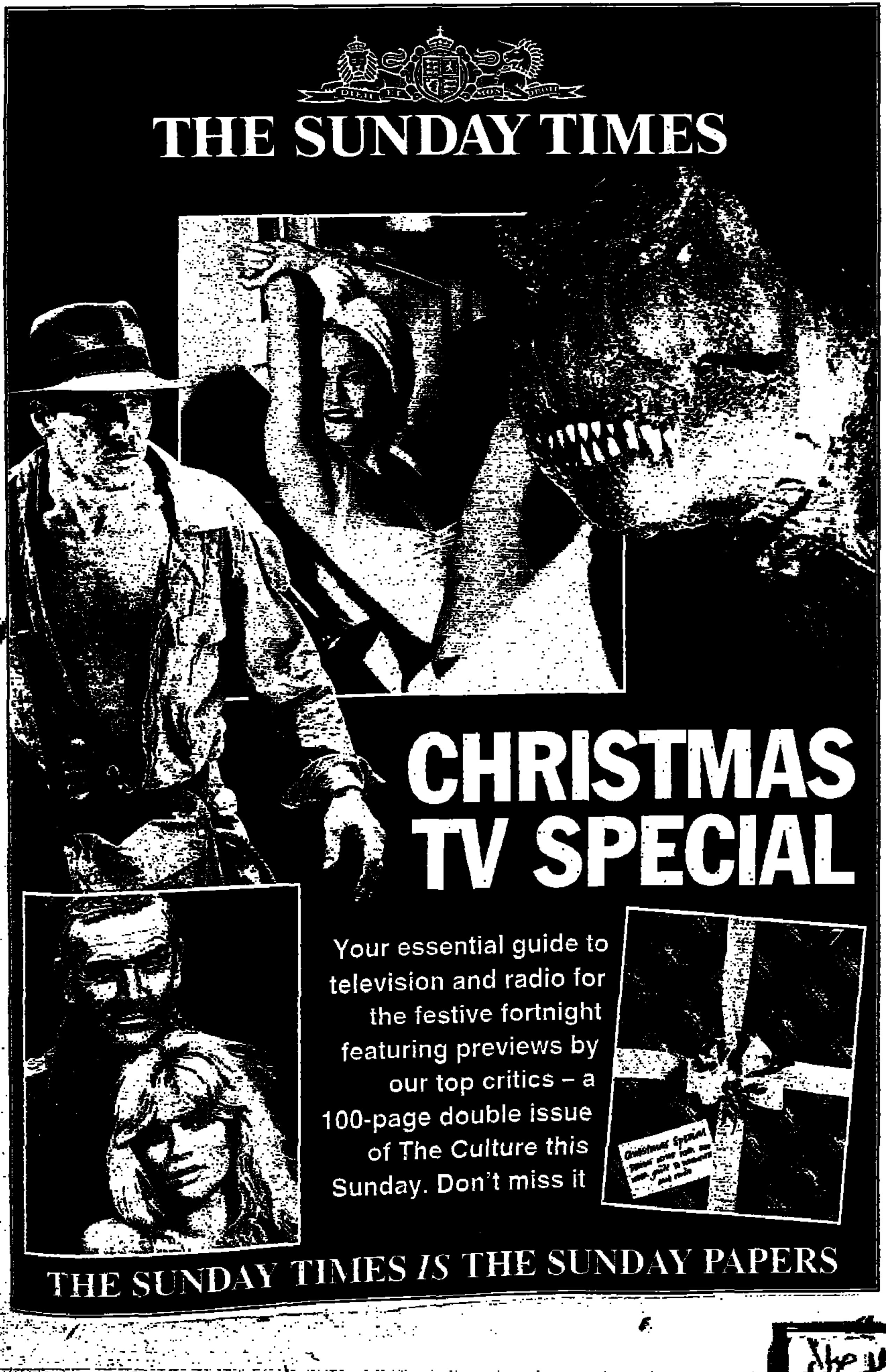
She was tried in one of Peru's controversial "blind" courts, where judges sometimes wear hoods to disguise their identity, and where there is no jury.

Now the couple fear the Peruvian authorities will be in no mood to go soft on a misguided American who got mixed up in another country's domestic strife. Nor are the Berensons helped by the international nature of the Lima siege. The Tupac Amarú name will now be linked around the world with terrorism, not the "poor people's struggle" that their daughter claims she was supporting.

"We are very distressed at the situation in Lima," said Mr Berenson. "We hope that the crisis is resolved expeditiously and peacefully."

An assistant at the office of Ramsey Clark, a former Attorney-General who is helping the Berensons, said the siege "certainly does not help some of the initiatives we are taking".

Mr Clark had harnessed support from Administration officials and several US congressmen. But yesterday the *New York Post* demanded that American officials made no further efforts to assist her.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Russia stepping up spy activities, says FBI chief

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LOUIS FREEH, Director of the FBI, said yesterday that Russia is increasing its efforts to spy on the United States, especially in economic espionage.

He said he would not underestimate the seriousness of the damage caused to national security by Earl Edwin Pitts, the senior FBI agent accused of selling US secrets to Moscow, although a full assessment has yet to be made.

Mr Pitts, 43, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with passing "everything" he could to the Russians between 1987 and 1992, when he worked in the FBI's New York unit responsible for catching Russian spies.

Mr Freeh told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "I think that Russian aggression has been unabated even in the post-Cold War. It's escalating. It's a serious and continuing problem."

He also disclosed that at least 23 foreign intelligence services are targeting the US and its economic infrastructure. But he said US counter-intelligence has improved. That was one reason why three high-ranking American agents have been arrested for spying in the past three years.

US intelligence chiefs concede that today's well-paid traitors do not believe they are putting their country in as much peril as during the Cold War. Espionage is still personally ruinous and potentially fatal for those who are found out, but no longer carries an overriding sense that millions of lives could be at stake.

Pitts: agent accused of selling FBI's secrets

As the three cases show, today's professional spies seem to spend more time spying on each other than unearthing secrets of national security. The alleged damage caused by Mr Pitts did not involve information about nuclear weapons, satellites or electronic technology. Nor was anyone killed as a result of his suspected treachery.

Mr Freeh had said earlier that the Russians' primary objectives were secrets of tradecraft. They wanted to know how the FBI works, its strengths and weaknesses, and what it knows about Russian agents in America. The FBI's privacy was violated and its pride hurt.

John Deutch, about to retire as CIA Director, explained how the end of the Cold War's had changed espionage. He said: "A very few case officers in the CIA and other government agencies just don't think it's that big a deal any more to give away secrets. It seems to make it easier to spy for money now because our country's survival is not at stake the way it was during the Cold War."

Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB chief of counter-intelligence and now a Washington business consultant, said: "In the old days, we were fighting for the minds of human beings across the continents. Today we don't see each other as mortal enemies, so why not play along with the other side as long as they're willing to pay you?"

Money rather than ideology was apparently the lure for the three latest accused. Moscow paid them handsomely, $2.5 million (£1.5 million) in the case of Aldrich Ames, the CIA mole serving life for treason that led to the executions of ten Western agents.

Awaiting trial is Harold Nicholson, a former CIA station chief, who denies supplying the names of CIA recruits to Moscow for $180,000. Mr Pitts allegedly received $240,000, though the Russians craftily held back $100,000 "on account".

BRUCE HOSKINS/AP

The "holy" image dismissed by sceptics as caused by light and a garden sprinkler

Hundreds flock to see 'vision of Virgin'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

HUNDREDS of people have been gathering outside a glass-fronted office building in Clearwater, Florida, to stare at what they say is a vision of the Virgin Mary.

Shadows on the tall, smoked-glass windows appear to show a haloed figure resembling traditional depictions of the Blessed Virgin. But sceptics say the shape is caused by light refracted by water in a garden sprinkler.

The shape was first seen by a woman on Tuesday morning. She mentioned it to others, and within minutes a crowd had gathered. Later, spectators carrying rosary beads prayed in front of the image. Mary Stewart, of the Tampa Jesus Christian Centre, said: "I stepped out of my car and the presence of God almost drew me to my knees."

A spokesman for the Roman Catholic archdiocese of St Petersburg, Florida, said that "people should exercise a great deal of healthy scepticism" about the alleged vision.

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WHatever they're into, get into WHSmith

New arrests after Paris terror blast

Paris: Anti-terrorist officers arrested 20 more suspected Islamic fundamentalists in dawn raids yesterday and police said bomb-making materials similar to those used in the recent attack on a commuter train had been found in a Paris department store (Ben Macintyre writes).

The raids follow the train bombing on December 3, which killed four people. Police blame the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, fighting to overthrow the French-backed Algerian Government.

Seles claim for £10m rejected

Bonn: A German regional court dismissed a £10 million damages claim by Monica Seles, the tennis star, against the German Tennis Federation, organisers of the Hamburg tournament where a fan of Steffi Graf stabbed her in 1993 (Peter Bild writes).

The judges ordered Ms Seles to pay costs of £300,000. She was unable to play for nearly two years after the attack and was claiming for distress and loss of earnings.

Rao forced to quit as leader

Delhi: India's Congress Party, in decline after dominating politics for half a century, was in further turmoil last night after its parliamentary leader was forced to resign (Christopher Thomas writes).

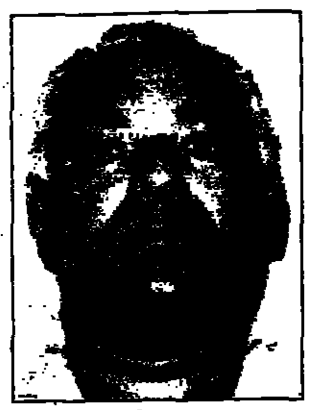
P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister until last summer's election, faces at least three corruption charges and is blamed for the party's disastrous electoral performance.

Police held over Kenya killings

Nairobi: Fifteen Kenyan police officers were arrested after an outcry against the Government and judicial system prompted by the killing of three students in protests this week (Sam Kiley writes.) One student was shot during a peaceful protest in Njoro. The other two were killed the following day in Nairobi.

Belly dancing to taxman's tune

Cairo: Egypt's 12 most famous belly dancers pay annually the equivalent of £160 million in taxes, making them the country's fifth largest source of income after receipts from the *Suez Canal*, tourism, oil and cotton, the Arab weekly *al-Wassat* reported. *(AFP)*


Corozzo: faces sentence of 400 years in jail

Agents net 'big fish mafioso' in shallows

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AN ALLEGED Mafia godfather has been arrested as he relaxed on a Florida beach.

FBI agents pounced on Nicholas "Little Nick" Corozzo when the alleged head of the Gambino crime family was at his most vulnerable: wearing *nothing but a pair of floral* bathing trunks and splashing around in the shallows of Key Biscayne beach.

Mr Corozzo, 56, who was allowed to put on a tracksuit before being driven away for questioning, is understood to have replaced John Gotti as the most powerful mobster in America. Gotti is serving a life sentence. Mr Corozzo's arrest was in almost farcical contrast to the bespoke-suited antics of Gotti, whose nickname was "the Dapper Don".

Officers appeared to have made him look foolish deliberately. It also meant they could be confident that he was not carrying a weapon.

Mr Corozzo is believed to have taken over the Gambino family's operations recently, when it became clear that Gotti would not be returning for some time. The clan allegedly runs extensive rackets in New York, Florida and elsewhere. Mr Corozzo was charged with numerous counts of usury, extortion and conspiracy to murder.

When Mr Corozzo and another alleged New York mafioso, Ralph Devino, arrived at the FBI headquarters in Miami they were still wearing their wet trunks. Mr Corozzo faces jail *sentences totalling* 400 years if convicted of all 20 charges against him.

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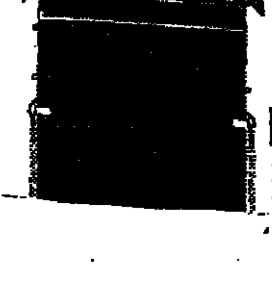

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Last eunuch of imperial China dies in temple

Thai factory girls tell a different story about the cost of Christmas toys

From Sue Lloyd-Roberts
in Bangkok

HER shoulders shook as she spoke. "Please, please don't tell anyone my name or show my picture. They will punish me if they know I am talking to you." This is not a tale of rape, murder or espionage. It is the story of workers in a toy factory in Thailand that makes Barbie dolls and the soft-toy version of the 101 Dalmatians that Disney is relaunching this Christmas.

The World Development Movement (WDM), with the TUC and the Catholic Institute for International Relations, are appealing to shoppers in Britain to hand into toyshops cards bearing the slogan "Fair play for toy workers". The card reads: "By next Christmas, I want to be able to buy 'people-friendly' toys from you". The targets of their campaign are factories in China and the Dynamic Factory outside Bangkok.

There is little doubt that the Dynamic toy factory lacks the "people-friendly" factor. When I asked to visit, I was told that "no outsiders and certainly no press" were allowed inside. I was left to meet the employees after work in a café in the industrial suburb of Kratumban, where four years ago the Kader factory that made Cabbage Patch dolls burnt down; 189 workers, including children, were killed and 400 were injured.

Several workers at the Dynamic factory are survivors of that fire. Supan (not her real name) said: "I still get nightmares. The factory floor here is a big mess. We are crowded in with sewing machines with only a narrow passage in between. The fire exits are blocked ... if we complain about anything, the managers get angry. We are punished by being moved off the assembly line and get put in nasty areas of the factory ... or we are made to work among the men and carry heavy weights."

Two years ago, a code of practice was introduced by the British Toy and Hobby Association on working conditions in manufacturing plants in Asia which supply Britain. It specifies maximum working hours and insists companies should abide by local labour laws.

The girls at Dynamic had not heard of any code. "Nearly all of us are here on continual temporary contracts," said *Somsri*. "I have worked at the factory for four years, but after I have worked for three or four months they make me resign and then reapply. That way, they don't have to pay me for holidays or sick leave."

Permanent temporary contracts are illegal in Thailand. It is also illegal to ignore the legal minimum wage, but another girl, Lek, said Dynamic had refused to introduce the new rate, the equivalent of $6 (£3.50) a day, that was introduced in October. "The older workers, that is those who had been with Dynamic for some time, only got an increase of seven baht (17p) or eight. Only the new ones got the full 12-baht increase, to encourage them to sign up to the factory." The Barbie dolls are made to order by the US toy giant Mattel, which boasted a turnover of $2.3 billion last year. The company insists its personnel visit manufacturers regularly.

"Oh yes, we see them," said Lek. "When the customer comes, everything is tidied up. They cover up what they don't want him to see."

Mattel said it was "deeply concerned" about the girls' allegations and promised to investigate immediately and take action if necessary. Last night it said it had sent inspectors into the factory this week and found no evidence to substantiate the allegations.

David Hawton, of the British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association, said: "There are huge problems all over the Third World." A *Baywatch* Barbie doll in London this Christmas costs £18.99, and a cuddly dalmatian £13.99. The WDM calculates that Mattel earns as much from UK sales of Barbie in one hour as it pays 5,000 workers in Thailand.

Fight over Elmo, page 15

Last eunuch of imperial China dies in temple

From James Pringle in Peking

ET ARCHIVE

Empress Hzu tsi, who died in 1908, attended by eunuchs in the Forbidden City in Peking. Imperial China castrated thousands of servants

CASTRATED at the age of eight, China's last surviving eunuch, who represented a rare bridge to the country's imperial past, has died in a Buddhist temple in Peking where he lived out the final years of a life of discrimination and repression, temple officials confirmed yesterday.

Sun Yaoting, 94, who served China's last emperor, Pu Yi, and who during the Cultural Revolution was, like his master, persecuted by Red Guards and sent to a labour camp, was found dead last Tuesday at the Guanghua temple where he was once caretaker.

Last night, it was not known whether Sun had been able to keep his *bao* — literally treasure, a euphemism for the pickled remains of his genitalia. The kind of ornate receptacle that they were kept in was shown in Bernardo Bertolucci's film *The Last Emperor* and is much sought after in antique markets here.

Eunuchs, of whom there were often thousands guarding the concubines in Chinese imperial courts, traditionally preserved their genitalia after castration so they might be buried with them and thus go to heaven to live in paradise as complete men. According to a spokeswoman at the Peking religious affairs bureau, Sun personally served Pu Yi's first wife, who was last empress of China. She died of opium addiction in 1946.

Born in 1902 to a poor family in Tianjin just after the Boxer Uprising, Sun was castrated and sent to the Forbidden City in Peking to serve the last princesses and concubines of the Qing Dynasty, which fell in 1911. In the 1930s, during the Sino-Japanese War, he followed Emperor Pu Yi to northeast China where Japan set up a puppet government.

Last night, John Aldis, a physician at the American Embassy here, said Sun's death represented the end of an era. Dr Aldis, who has a wide circle of Chinese medical practitioner friends, including a noted neurologist who has made a study of eunuchs, described the agonies they endured at the imperial court.

He said the operation on a small boy, usually aged about six, was more horrific even than what Westerners imagine. "It was not just the excision of the testicles, as is generally thought. With one quick swipe of a very sharp knife, the entire scrotum and penis were removed at once.

"One can just imagine what the pain and trauma must have been like for a little boy, who had no warning. There was no anaesthetic of any kind, though some herbs may have been applied. It was brutal and horrible. The agony was intense, and the eunuchs suffered their whole lives from chronic infections of the urinary tract — and without a penis it was very difficult to urinate."

Dr Aldis said that the social stigma — the scorn of society for a man who was not a man — was terrible. "These little boys grew up never to know what it was to experience sexual desire or to produce offspring," he said.

Dr Aldis added it was quite possible that there were still some unrecorded eunuchs in remote villages, just as in the deep countryside in China, particularly Shandong province, one still sees elderly women with bound feet. In history, some eunuchs have held great power in imperial households while others did menial tasks. One, Wei Chungxian, was accused of misrule that helped to hasten the end of the Ming dynasty. However, another, Cheng Ho, who lived in the 15th century, is one of China's national heroes, and its greatest sailor, who led several expeditions to India and the east coast of Africa.

With the last emperor and now the last eunuch dead, China is losing some of its most traditional figures. Much of its architectural history has gone as well, with the loss of old buildings and city walls.

At the same time, the once puritanical country is now undergoing a sexual revolution. Affairs are popular, and even as the Government cracks down on pornography in a "spiritual civilisation" campaign, an Anne Summers-like chain of sex shops called Adam and Eve, selling sexual aids, is springing up in Chinese cities. One of Peking's leading department stores near the diplomatic district has an Adam and Eve offshoot under the escalator in the basement. Women in white coats advise shoppers on sexual problems and how they can be treated.

With Sun, however, there could have been no treatment ever.

India's eunuchs, page 14

Holocaust claims rejected by Swiss

From Peter Capella
in Berne

A REPORT prepared for the Swiss Government and published yesterday rejects charges by world Jewish groups that Swiss companies and citizens were directly compensated with money from victims of the Holocaust in settlement of claims for property confiscated in Communist Eastern Europe after the Second World War.

But the report, by two government-appointed historians, highlights the way Swiss economic and banking interests dominated negotiations with the allies and Eastern European countries on the issue in the postwar period, to the exclusion of all other considerations. It suggests they deliberately ignored the plight of Holocaust survivors or relatives.

The historians found evidence that this continued for decades and said the Government should consider "concrete compensation".

Officials said the Swiss Government was considering a compensation fund for Holocaust victims, adding that investigations would continue. The Government has declined, however, to comment on the report.

The historians revealed that a search in Switzerland in the 1960s for the owners of unclaimed bank accounts was restricted to the West. The authorities failed to consider Holocaust survivors and relatives who lived on the other side of the Iron Curtain.

Mother Teresa walks out of hospital

Delhi: Mother Teresa walked unsteadily out of hospital in Calcutta yesterday after nearly a month in intensive care (Christopher Thomas writes). She was taken to the headquarters of her Sisters of Charity order as doctors, nurses and onlookers applauded.

She fought pneumonia, a heart attack, and lung and kidney diseases while in hospital, insisting throughout that she wanted to go home and that she should receive no special treatment. But she had the best that Calcutta could offer, and the expertise of an American specialist who had operated on her before.

The nun, 86, wearing a cheap blue and white sari, greeted about 200 people outside. She has been told that she cannot return to her normal workload as head of the order she founded.

Doctors would have liked her to stay in hospital longer, but she had become anxious to go home.p

Photograph, page 20

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	£100,000+	5.50	4.40	5.30	4.24
	£50,000+	5.15	4.12	5.00	4.00
	£25,000+	4.65	3.72	4.40	3.52
	£10,000+	4.40	3.52	4.15	3.32
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	£500+	5.00	4.00	-	-
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	£50,000+	4.10	3.28	3.90	3.12
	£25,000+	4.00	3.20	3.80	3.04
	£10,000+	3.00	2.40	2.80	2.24
	£5,000+	2.30	1.84	2.10	1.68
	£2,500+	2.15	1.72	2.00	1.60
	£1,000+	1.85	1.48	1.50	1.20
Premier Cheque Account	£150,000+	5.35	4.28	-	-
	£100,000+	4.75	3.80	-	-
	£50,000+	3.85	3.08	-	-
	£25,000+	3.75	3.00	-	-
	£10,000+	2.75	2.20	-	-
	£5,000+	2.05	1.64	-	-
	£2,500+	1.90	1.52	-	-
	£500+	1.60	1.28	-	-
	£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-
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	£4,800+	5.40	Gross	-	-
	£1,000+	5.25	Gross	-	-
Cap. Accumulator	£1,200+	3.35	2.68	-	-
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BEN EDWARDS/IMPACT MOHAMED ANSAR/IMPACT BEN EDWARDS/IMPACT

The *hijras* are often bullied, but they make no effort to hide. They dress as women, and the chemical change that follows castration gives them womanly shapes. They control large property interests and have a close relationship with the police

The hidden world of the eunuchs

India has as many as a million eunuchs leading 'invisible' lives. Zia Jaffrey was allowed into one house to witness and to write about their centuries-old secrets. Interview by **Quentin Letts**

It is an tricky matter, when sitting in a packed Manhattan restaurant, to discuss human castration, but that was the task in hand with Zia Jaffrey.

Thirtysomething Jaffrey — with old-fashioned modesty she would have one not disclose her exact age — has written a book about the *eunuchs of India. It is called The Invisibles* and is a curious cross between fiction and anthropology, travel book and journalistic exposé. It is a hybrid, like the eunuchs themselves.

Not that the word "eunuch" was easy to utter. The maitre d' of the "21" Club, an old and estimable establishment off Fifth Avenue, pulled out one of the best tables in the house. To *one side of us sat a group of* four shoulder-padded "ladies who lunch", gorging on gossip and twitching with curiosity about neighbouring tables. On our other flank a couple of purple-nosed businessmen exchanged sexual boasts as they tucked in to hunks of broiled cow. We could pretend to be discussing bullocks, perhaps.

The *hijras* (eunuchs) of India are many. At last reckon*ing it was 50,000, or perhaps a* million. The wide discrepancy in estimates is typical of the teeming uncertainty of India, such is the physical difficulty of assembling any sort of headcount in that vast land and the intellectual challenge of filleting Indian evasion and half-truth. "They fib," says Jaffrey. "It is something you have to realise. They just fib."

As someone who is herself a hybrid, half-Indian, half-American, she can get away with saying that sort of thing without being accused of race bias. Or can she? Her book has created a stir among the culturally sensitive publishing elite of Manhattan for the way it presents Indian society in all its colours, good and bad.

"This was one of the doubts I had about the book — would Westerners be able to understand the complexity of issues?" she says. She had to fight to retain certain colourful passages. American intellectuals are awfully bad at acknowledging the flaws and human failings of foreign cultures.

There are also the beginnings of a controversy about the book in the Indian media, *but for different reasons.* There, people would rather she had never poked her snout into the hidden world of the eunuchs. They, like us in our smart New York restaurant, opt for euphemism and murmurs when discussing the centuries-old eunuch colonies, which select their recruits from the disadvantaged *young. "I expect the book will* be published in India but I am a bit worried about it," says Jaffrey. She expects "some changes" will have to be made, and some names taken out to protect them from attack.

"When I am in India I feel American, and when I am in America I feel that I am an Indian," says Jaffrey. She was born in New York city, where her parents Saaed and Madhur Jaffrey had moved from India to work as actors. The *couple divorced,* and in the ensuing upheavals little Zia and her younger siblings were packed off to India to stay with in-laws while mother set to making her name as an actress and as Britain's favourite authority on Indian cooking. Zia later returned to New York, but the steaming summers continued to be spent in Delhi and she now has a gift for catching, in her prose, the cacophany and scent of the bewitching subcontinent. She writes of passing through the spice markets, where the hot-peppered breeze stings the eyes. She describes hurtling down dingy alleyways in manic-driven motor rickshaws with drivers who, at the top of hills, switch off the engine with a yelp of triumph at saving some petrol. She writes with a passion for the place, despite all its madness and cruelty.

Eunuchs have been a part of *life there since early days. The* court eunuchs of medieval maharajahs and nizams owed their favour to the fact that they would not mate with the harem. Marco Polo, swinging by the court of the Great Khan in Bengal in 1290, wrote of the castration of prisoners and a lively market in eunuchs. In the 17th century, the Emperor Jahangir noted that "every year, innocent children are ... mutilated for life and rendered "this abominable practice", but no one took much notice.

Zia Jaffrey, left, and her mother, Madhur Jaffrey

The 19th-century British traveller Sir Richard Burton recorded the method of castration, which reportedly is not so very different today. "The *parts are swept off by a single* cut of the razor, a tube (tin or wooden) is set in the urethra, the wound is cauterised with boiling water, and the patient planted in a fresh dunghill ... he often survives." The pudding waiter appeared at our table, and left as quickly as he had arrived.

Encountering such fare, even when not sitting in a smart city lunch-spot, gives one cause to pause. Can such acts really be a fact of life in *late 20th-century* India? (Answer: yes, and according to one rumour, there is even a eunuch market somewhere in Goa, selling youngsters to the Middle East.) How should the modern Western reader react? "There is a part of me that believes in counselling and so forth — but that is the American in me," says Jaffrey. "The Indian in me felt it was important just to *report it — to say what I had* found and not to state an opinion."

> According to rumour there is a market in Goa selling youngsters

The *hijras* are often bullied in metropolitan India, but they make no effort to hide. They dress as women, and the chemical change in their bodies that follows castration gives them womanly shapes. The "invisible" part of Jaffrey's title reflects Mother India's ambivalence to their existence. *Hijras* have a knack of turning up, en masse, at weddings and births to chant and scream *until the family pays them to* go away. They also control large property interests and have a surprisingly close relationship with the police whom they inform, being gossips, in exchange for protection.

In her investigations of the world of the *hijras*, Jaffrey encountered shocked, almost comic discouragement from her in-laws that she was interested in following such odd people. And yet she own, blatant shadings of the truth.

Jaffrey scored a considerable coup by persuading a group of *hijras* in Hyderabad to admit her to their house and to betray some of the centu*ries-old secrets of their almost* holy order. The house was, she recalls, "ascetic, rather like a monastery, but also with elements of a brothel". The *hijras* often live in comfort and have a highly efficient system of community, with an unofficial tithe on fellow eunuchs, an advanced level of care for their elderly, and a robust discipline. Kamal Baksh, a septuagenarian "guru, sardar, chief, madam, father, mother" was the head eunuch of the Hyderabad house where Jaffrey went in 1984. That was the *year much of the work on the* book was done. Zia was working with a friend on a film, but the project later stalled and Zia went through a hiatus of her own. The "love of her life", Louis Broman, 38, died after a long illness. While he was dying, Zia was unable to concentrate on the book.

One of the benefits of having Madhur Jaffrey for a mother was the home cooking. "I had the best lunch sandwiches at school," she laughed. "Some kids would turn up with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and I would be there with three prawns wrapped in beautiful sesame bread. I never wanted to swap lunches!" Another advantage was the access that her mother's prominence gave her to creative guides such as the film-makers Ismail Merchant and James Ivory, whom she lists in her acknowledgements, and in having an ace literary agent such as Andrew "The Jackal" Wylie. It was Wylie who sent the manuscript of *The Invisibles* to Sonny Mehta at Pantheon Books in New York.

The old *hijra* Kamal Baksh, surrounded by her disciples, *offered Jaffrey a view of her* castration scar. "It was at that moment," the author recalls, "that I learnt that as a writer I was an Indian and not a journalist. I declined her offer." She felt it would be unnecessary, and that the *hijras* had probably told her enough about their lives. What is the point of being an *invisible if you show the world* everything?

We rose from the table and left, followed, I could not help noticing, by the strangest of looks from the "21" Club's veteran head waiter.

● The Invisibles *will be published by Phoenix House in July*

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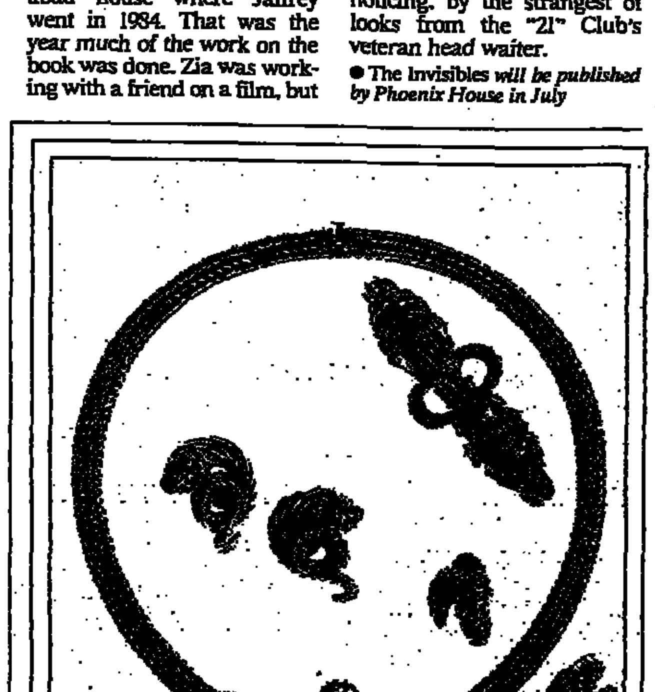

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'Boys can fly from flower to flower and enjoy romance'

John Sessions on the need for men to understand women better — and why he thinks of himself as a bluestocking who is not sexually attractive

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

John Sessions, self-styled Mr Swotty, will be seen on Christmas Day in a dramatisation of E. Nesbit's *The Treasure Seekers*. His childhood, though precocious, was not the kind where E. Nesbit's stories such as *The Railway Children*, of middle-class children falling on hard times, were read aloud in the nursery. But he has made up for it since. Mentally and intellectually, he inhabits the late Victorian age.

We were going to meet in the Cadogan Hotel, which would doubtless have set him off on Wildean flights. The mere mention of the place has him quoting: "Mr Wilde, we must ask you to leave with us quietly, for this is the Cadogan Hotel." *Did I know Betjeman's poem? Well of* course. Conversation with Sessions would be hopeless without some literary prep.

He wears his learning on his sleeve, letting allusion and cross-reference teem from his well-stocked mind. "Beggar him, Estella!" he suddenly cries in the voice of Edith Evans playing Miss Havisham. And, "They smile at me who shortly shall be dead" in the voice of Alec Clunes playing Hastings in *Olivier's* Richard III. He discourses on Ibsen, comparing Nora in *A Doll's House* to Alison in *Look Back in Anger*. If he had actually completed his PhD thesis (on John Cowper Powys) and become Dr Sessions, perhaps he would not feel compelled to display his erudition; but then he would have been lost to the stage, which would have been a pity.

When he first arrived on television in 1983 in *After Midnight*, with Ken Livingstone and *Auberon Waugh — Clive Anderson was just the* warm-up man — Sessions would sit alone addressing the camera, a little smile playing about his lips. The Scottish accent (he was born in Largs, but left Scotland at the age of three) inspired confidence; but he was already hard to place. What *was* he exactly? A sitdown comedian? A polemicist?

We are still wondering. We know from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* how easily he can improvise going to the dentist in the style of Hemingway, or Joyce. In cabaret, (for example, at *Private Eye's* recent 35th anniversary party) he does his Andrew Neil and his Prince of Wales. In *My Night With Reg*, in *Tartuffe*, and in Simon Gray's *The Common Pursuit*, he proved an impressive ensemble actor. But by inclination he is a one-man show man. After Napoleon, Boswell and Lord Leighton he would be doing Oscar Wilde, if Stephen Fry had not commandeered Oscar for now. Perhaps he could take on the priapic Frank Harris ...

He draws constantly on the past. Talking of E. Nesbit (a founder Fabian who worked for the poor and fell in love with Shaw) leads him to the struggles of Jane Austen, Fanny Burney, Mrs *Gaskell, George Eliot, the Brontës, Louisa May* Alcott, Beatrix Potter. Consider, he said, how females in adversity had been written about by Defoe, Richardson — and the "contained fury" that was the lot of any intelligent Victorian woman.

In *The Treasure Seekers*, the Bastable children try to stave off their widower father's financial ruin, aided by Sessions as the kindly bank manager. The fact that Mr Bastable is inventing a fridge leads Sessions to a disquisition on the technological inventiveness of the Edwardians.

The photographer needed a *picture. Sessions* ("*Could I just* take a wee drop of that?" — seizing a bottle of red wine from a waiter trying with undisguised impatience to clear up) removed his jacket and instantly began to clown like Chaplin and smirk like Stan Laurel for the camera.

That done, he returned, replaced jacket, and seamlessly proceeded to analyse the subtext he sees in Dora Bastable's relationship with her father. "Fathers and daughters — it's always King Lear and Cordelia," he mused. "I have observed it in my own family." He has a twin sister, Maggie, who after a difficult start (unlike her brother, she failed her 11-plus) is now a lawyer in Canada; he is spending Christmas with her. "We are very different," he says. "She looks like Sigourney Weaver, and she's always been a toughie. I have a *theory that* because girls, *even when they're little*, know they're going to produce babies, that makes them realists. Whereas boys know — depending on their proclivities — they can fly from flower to flower and enjoy the indulgence of romance. Even the gay ones do."

After Bangor University, Sessions went to Canada to do his MA and started his PhD. Then a theatre director friend told him he should either carry on being the "barathea-blazered, silk-*squared gentleman player in amateur dramatics*" or go professional. Hence his belated (*aetat* 26) application to drama school. Having got into the Guildhall; he went out celebrating and arrived at his Rada audition next morning with a terrific hangover. "I did Benedick's 'This can be no trick ...' from *Much Ado*. Hugh Cruttwell said: 'That was terrible. You weren't acting, you were doing an impersonation of what an actor sounds like.' " So he did a bit of Pinter's *The Homecoming*, and was awarded a scholarship.

CHRIS HARRIS

John Sessions: "I've spread myself too widely. I thought the game was jumping out of as many holes as possible — but it confuses people"

Working alongside Toby Stephens and Geraldine Chaplin last summer (on a film of *Cousin Bette)* made him ponder on the problems of the children of the famous. "You remember in *The Prelude*, when Wordsworth rows away across the lake and the mountain above seems to follow him and get bigger? I think all these whose folks are in the business — wee Beckinsale, wee Sam West — *have these huge shadows after them. But it drives* them too."

Not long ago Sessions spoke of withdrawing his beneficence from the Labour Party. His vote remains with them. "But they have 'cabin'd, cribb'd, and confin'd' *(Macbeth)* some of their more eloquent spokesmen, like Tony Benn. The inner sanctum of the party tries to appear crisp, clean, efficient, cost-effective. They have assumed the agenda of the regime they combat.

"*But perhaps people like myself should realise* that Churchill had to break a few eggs to defeat Hitler. So I'll be sending them lots of money. But I don't want to see any hysterical public relations campaigns. I don't want them to spend it on T-shirts."

Which leads him to broadcasting, and poor John Birt taking on the digital *revolution*. "*I wish more people* would come to his aid in his deeply courageous fight to preserve public broadcasting. The BBC's role is to lead and educate. It is the very crucible of our democracy. If public broadcasting goes, I will leave this country."

He is an avid listener to *Woman's Hour* ("Jenni Murray should have an OBE") and says it behoves all men "whatever their denomination" to know more about women. He lives in Putney in *solitary splendour on two floors of* "a big white wedding cake of a house", but hankers after Pimlico. In *The Treasure Seekers*, we see him at the wheel of a grand old DeDion Bouton; in real life he failed his driving test twice and gave up.

It turns out he auditioned for second Weasel in the *Wind in the Willows* film — "I played him as Alan Clark" — but did not get it. Meanwhile he is writing a show for Rebecca Front, on Picasso. *My Night With Reg will be televised next spring. But* tempting offers do not, he says, come tumbling onto his doormat. It's the old problem: what is he? "I'm a bit of a bluestocking, not instantly sexually attractive, and my comedy suits some people but some think it doesn't exist."

He will be 44 in January, so he is "into the second wind of the career". He thinks he has done all right so far, but not as well as he should have. "I've spread myself too widely. I thought the game *was jumping out of as many holes as possible* — but actually, that just confuses people."

Why America's mothers are fighting it out over Elmo

Quentin Letts reports on the Christmas toy that is so popular even a Mafia boss has to say please to get one

Toy stores in America this December have witnessed ugly scenes, reminiscent of wartime England *when a fresh delivery of* nylons reached the local F.W. Woolworth.

The rationed goods, this time, are not toffee bon-bons, Barnsley chops, or chicken necks. The things American parents are going *mad* for — at the behest of their children — are plump, reddish dolls which, when *touched*, will squirm and emit funny noises. They are called Tickle *Me Elmo dolls and they have* been an unexpected and quite amazing success.

In New Brunswick, a sales assistant was crushed under a surge of Elmo-deprived shoppers and taken to hospital. *His branch* of Wal-Mart had just received a consignment of Tickle Me Elmos and the poor fellow did not move fast enough. Whooooosh! Trampled underfoot he was, and later borne away on a stretcher *to be treated for shock and* bruises.

Since the Christmas shopping season began in earnest, television news pictures have shown flurries of Elmo activity in local malls. There was the woman who held a one-armed Elmo. "Some other Mom said she saw it first and we got into a tuggin' match," she explained. "Elmo got torn in two." She waved the doll's remaining paw at the camera to show the triumph of good over evil.

In New York City, with the Italianate swagger which has made his family one of the most feared in that smoky conurbation, John Gotti Jr and some associates made what the boys in his trade call "a courtesy call" to the nearby outlet of Toys 'R' Us. Mr Gotti is a capo of the Genovese Mafia clan. "Got any Elmo *dolls, please?*" he asked the toyshop manager with exquisite politeness, his little pinky raised in supplication. And, what do you know, by some miracle they did have a few. A whole case, to be precise, which was handed over by the toy shop manager with a certain tremulousness of hand.

When a Mafia man wants something so bad he says "please", you know things are hot.

According to its manufacturer, Tyco Preschool, the shortage occurred because the trade made a monumental booboo about how popular the furry little thing was going to be. Reaction at the US Toy Fair in February was little more than lukewarm and Tyco estimated selling *300,000 of the $30 (£18) dolls*. Things started to pick up in October, when Tyco cranked *up its Far East machines to* make 50,000 Elmos a week. By Christmas Eve the company will probably have sold one million Elmos.

As with pork-pies in wartime Weybridge, a black market has developed. Outside FAO Schwarz, the big Manhattan toy shop, Elmos have been going for five times retail price. Charity auctions of Elmos have seen bids of more than $1,000. The story of the doll's creator has also touched *hearts. Ron Druben, a skinny* bloke with the looks of Steve Ovett, was until now a strug*gling inventor with life's cares* on his shoulders. Now he is rich and — like the toy — full of laughter.

Elmo has even entered the political lexicon. A conservative magazine, *The Weekly Standard*, noted that when the President recently met China's Defence Minister, a Tiananmen tough called General Chi Haotian, the egregious Mr Clinton went into "Tickle-Me-Bill" mode. Perhaps that is why this toy has been such a success in America. It matches the country's *all-grinning, all-accommodating* spirit of the age.

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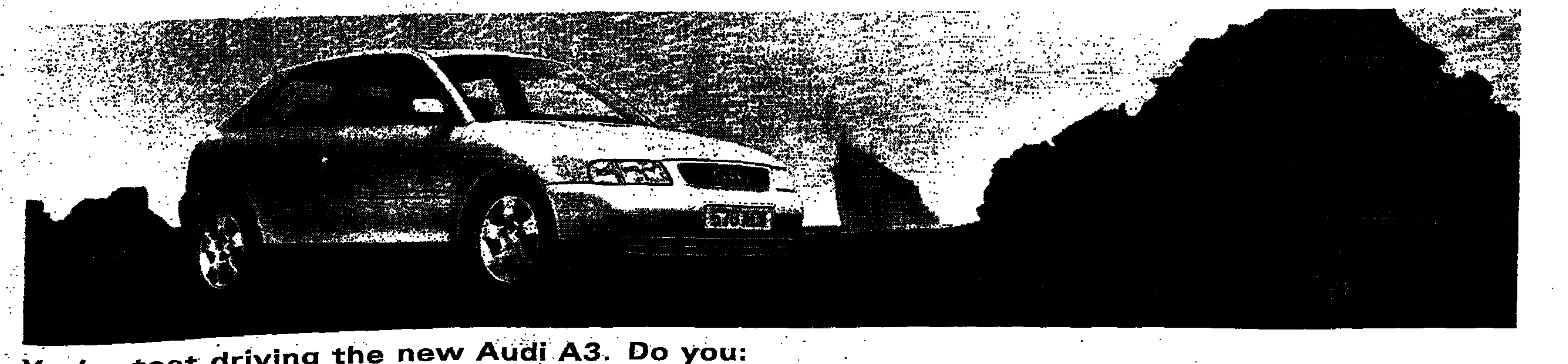

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A bridge too far for London

Roger Scruton indicts the latest monstrosity of a modernist cartel

Londoners have abruptly been informed of a project to build a new bridge across the Thames — a habitable bridge, supporting flats and offices. The structure, designed by the French modernist Antoine Grumbach, will dominate the Thames, and cast the diminutive St Paul's into shadow. The Royal Academy tells us that "the public" has voted two to one in favour of it. Only a few bureaucratic hurdles remain between this idea and the hideous reality.

It is surprising to be told of this popular desire for Grumbach's building, at a time when educated Londoners are turning their backs on modernism, relieved to find that architects still exist who are prepared to respect the old human scale, the old line of the street, and the old sense of detail inherited from the classical tradition. Clearly something is afoot, and this case is a telling illustration of the process whereby a modernist establishment has perpetuated itself, manipulating our rulers and planners, and imposing its half-baked schemes for social regeneration on the voiceless multitudes below.

The vote announced by the Royal Academy was about as reliable an indicator of popular opinion as elections in the old Soviet Union. Here is the story, as I understand it. John Gummer conceives the idea of a bridge across the Thames — a bridge as far as possible from the modernist stereotype, a bridge in the spirit of the Rialto and the Ponte Vecchio, urbane, inhabited, marrying the river to the life of the city. However, being a mere Secretary of State, he depends upon the Establishment to endorse his idea. He therefore entrusts the project to the Royal Academy, and so betrays it into the hands of the modernists.

The choice was only between rival modernists

The Academy cooks up an exhibition entitled *Living Bridges*, organised by Peter Murray, editor of *Blueprint*, a publication devoted to the modernist idea. The Academy then appoints a panel of judges, led by Sir Philip Dowson — the ageing trendy who is also its president, as well as being senior partner in the modernist firm of Ove Arup, and unelected member (for 26 years!) of the Royal Fine Art Commission, which has done so much to extend the dead hand of modernism over city planning. The 12 judges include Gordon Graham, president of the RIBA, a quasi-masonic coterie of modernists dedicated to imposing their values on the rest of us. Only two of the judges, John Gummer and his adviser Liam O'Connor, have ever been known to dissent from modernist orthodoxy.

The competition is not put out to tender. On the contrary, the judges invite seven carefully selected firms of architects to submit six designs: six modernists, and one token reactionary (Krier Associates). The judges, failing to agree, choose two "winning designs" — one the piece of modernist kitsch by Grumbach, the other a typical doodle from Zaha Hadid, whch looks like a flow chart produced by a crazed computer. Only then is anyone else asked to vote, choosing one of the "winning designs" in preference to the other. The voters are the tiny section of the public that has passed through the Royal Academy's exhibition, itself arranged so as to present these childish jokes as artistic projects on a level with the triumphal bridge of Soane or the great "living bridges" of Venice, Florence and Rome. Do you remember the glorious days of Soviet communism, when each seat in the Soviet was contested by two candidates, both chosen by the Party?

Grumbach's bridge reminds me of nothing so much as the bridge in Bratislava — a comparable piece of kitsch suspended from a single point, which crashes into the old town, demolishes half of it, dwarfs the Church of St Nicholas, and reduces the Danube to a dirty puddle. This bridge too was built by "popular request", under orders from the ruling élite of the Communist Party.

So how does modernism work? First, modernist projects are huge, expensive and result in buildings with vast maintenance costs. Hence they are, from the point of view of their architects, immensely lucrative, and the source of permanent income in the form of constant repair work.

Secondly, establishments that used to be composed of sober, conservative people, with inherited status that they were anxious to preserve, are now formed in another and opposing way. In the modern world, patronage is in the hands of the State — in other words, in the hands of the bureaucrats, politicians and scoungers who live from our taxes, and who hve a vested interest in change since it is the motor of their own advancement. "Progress" is the ideology through which these apparatchiks assert and justify their domination.

Finally we should take account of the appeal of modernist ideas for the half-educated. Modernism wipes away piecemeal knowledge and slowly acquired wisdom, and puts a comprehensive system in their place. As every child with a Lego set can discover, it requires neither culture nor talent nor skill to be a modernist. At the same time, modernism enables its adepts to posture as members of an enlightened *avant garde*. In the words of Shaftesbury, the most ingenious way of becoming foolish is by a system.

That, in short, is how it is that the presidency of the Royal Academy — an institution founded to safeguard artistic values against the corrosion of the modern world — came to be bestowed upon someone wedded to an aesthetic which threatens our architectural heritage, and which clutters our once beautiful city with projects from which no one gains besie the cartel of architects who promote them.

"Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves & a partridge in a pear tree."

Growing up as killers

How did children in Britain learn to take human life? We are living in an age that is unshockable

Bernard Levin

I have always admired the Labour MP Frank Field. His work is sensible and honest, and he helps those who need help. A while ago, he wrote an article in the *Daily Mail* which — but let him speak for himself:

> They are the new barbarians; a growing army of louts and thugs who make life hell for my most vulnerable constituents. The biggest change I have seen in my Birkenhead constituency since I was elected in 1979 is the seemingly unstoppable rise of this underclass of brutish and almost unemployable young males who "mature" into anti-social, often criminal, adults.

I said that I admire Field, and I do, but I have to add that if he has just discovered these barbarians, he must have been asleep for a considerable time. Let us begin with three photographs. The first is a man in middle age; he is one of three brothers. He lives rough, but doesn't seem to mind, and he can always be found on a park bench. He is a known and friendly figure. The second photograph shows a young boy, aged 13. He looks a nice lad, with a pleasing smile. The third character is the same age, but he looks a nasty little runt. He is. So was the other boy — his smile was untrue.

The two boys — remember they were both 13 — tortured the homeless man to death. He was robbed, hit, kicked, covered by poured molten plastic, and finally set alight. His burns were such that he was in agony for three weeks before he died.

I repeat that the two boys were 13 years of age; in plain English they killed a human being for fun. Now, what I want to know is — how did little children in Britain become killers?

Pass.

But try this. Peter Moore, 50, the homosexual owner of a cinema chain killed four men for the pleasure he derived from the act of murder. The men he killed were complete strangers, none of whom had done anything to annoy or aggravate him. Moore's first victim was Henry Roberts, a retired railwayman who lived as a recluse near Anglesey. The second victim was Edward Carthy, who was stabbed to death with a combat knife, and of whom Moore said, "I think he was a bit frightened, actually". The third was Tony Davies. His fourth victim was Keith Randles, and Moore said this about the way his victim died: "There was a certain enjoyment from it but the enjoyment certainly wasn't sexual. Like everything, it was a job well done. You know, the job was done." When a victim asked why he was going to be killed, Moore replied "For fun".

Now we turn to the old man (truly old — he was 84), Kenneth Speakman, who was a member of a shooting club in Ramsgate; he was murdered for his guns. He was a highly respected resident of Ramsgate. He was very sprightly. He had been interested in guns all his life. He was a very conscientious person and he was a firm believer in keeping his guns locked away securely. But when the thieves broke in, the guns were not just stolen: Speakman was beaten and strangled, for no comprehensible reason.

We have all read of the dreadful killing of Louise Allen. Again, one of the killers was 13, and the other was 12. The innocent child was kicked to death.

Are you feeling sick? You will be much, much sicker. Try this headline: "Widow, 94, raped by youth in graveyard". Harken to the widow:

> I decided to take a walk down to the graveyard. I wanted to go to see the flowers of my neighbour's husband's grave. I thought I would go through the grass. I was walking towards the grave and I passed my husband's plaque when someone from behind pushed me and I fell to the ground. He seemed amused and was laughing. I was screaming and yelling as loud as I could. I said to him "Why don't you get a younger woman? I am in my nineties." He said "It doesn't make any difference." I was helpless and there was nothing I could do.

The young man who did that, Steven Barton, has been caught, tried, convicted and has started a 12-year sentence.

Now do please believe me when I say that this hideous catalogue of dreadfulness is not compiled just to cause nausea, though there is plenty of nausea to come. All these terrible things have a meaning, and a particular meaning.

But there is more. A wandering man, whom none would harm, found himself harmed to death, and a very terrible one it was. But that is not the point: killers abound and always have. More to the point, the shocking Bulger case was not only a "one-off", but something quite different: it is clear that the boys who did the deed had no conception of murder or indeed any kind of evil.

But the two who killed Alan Whittle, and killed him in the most dreadful manner imaginable, were only 13 years old *and should have known exactly what they were doing*. As should those children who killed Louise Allen.

These are not scraps from my album, and if they were, there would be a clue. When the Louise Allen case was in court, someone murmured these words: "It is another shocking example of school-age gang violence sweeping the country." And what did Frank Field say? "They are the new barbarians: a growing army of louts and thugs who make life hell for my most vulnerable constituents."

True, but it is only the edge. Louts and thugs, new barbarians, stone-throwers, yes, but this is not adequate to describe the world we are now sinking into. I want to know why that hideous killing of Alan Whittle took place, and I must know why a little child did it.

And again, I turn to the terrible impossible. Hear the prosecutor for the case saying, "There is no doubt the defendants knew that what they were doing was wrong". Then in the name of God, how did such children know what it is to kill another human being, and even how it is done?

I say it again. There are, in our civilised Great Britain, children who are hardly out of their swaddling-clothes who know how to kill human beings, and some of them have already actually killed human beings, and some of those have killed human beings *for fun*.

And the father of the dead child said: "We have tried to bring our children up correctly, but law and order is a joke when you have got gangs running around wild. We never hit Louise even once, we didn't have to. You only had to shout at her and she would burst into tears." And the father of the dead child added: "I brought her up the way I was brought up myself — respect your elders, be polite and have good manners."

When did the rope break? How did Peter Moore manage to murder four separate men, none of them known to any of the others? And when one of his victims was in his grasp, and he was ready for murder, how did he feel? He tells us, plainly — though it is scarcely credible — that he did it for fun.

And the 94-year-old lady who was raped in a graveyard, and whose assailant laughed as he did so? And the 84-year-old gun-expert whose guns were stolen, while the owner was strangled?

My *pot-pourri* of horror is not, I assure you, just to make your blood freeze. I chose these horrors — and especially those involving children — because Frank Field and myself are now living in an era that we cannot understand. In the time of Dickens it would not be strange to find child criminals of 13 or younger. But we are not in the time of Dickens, we are in the time of the millennium. And he would be a remarkably optimistic man who, surveying such horrors, would pat a head or two and say that lads will be lads and indeed lasses will be lasses, particularly if he is having his head broken and his throat cut at the same time.

Once upon a time, a naughty little *boy might throw an apple-core out of* the speeding train, and all the other people would be shocked. But now, a headline in *The Times* cries out "Soaring vandalism threatens murder on railway" and all the other people are *not* shocked.

Philip Howard

■ 'Parliaments past? Bah,' said Stooge, 'Humbug!'

The bell of his bleeper pealed only once. But it was a peal to waken the dead. Awaking in the middle of a prodigiously tough snore, and sitting up in bed to get his thoughts together, Ebeneezer Stooge reached across for his portable telephone.

As leader of his party, he automatically assumed that the call came from a researcher for the *Today* programme, desirous of asking him whether he was disappointed not to be "elected" by tele-phony stampede as its personality of the year. And then to interrupt him aggressively as soon as he made to answer. But an unearthly light was streaming from the next chamber, as from a television studio, and there were no make-up personnel to talcum the cold sweat from Stooge's brow.

"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost, for ghost it must have been. "Come in! and know me better, Mighty Statesman! For I am the Ghost of Question Times Past. And I have come to show you the error of your ways. So take hold of the hem of my tunic."

The Speaker of Question Times Past was a handsome woman dressed in buckles and bows. She smiled at Stooge in a lofty but not unfriendly way. And as he grasped her tunic, they seemed to be whisked in an instant high up into the highest gallery of the debating chamber he knew so well, and where he continually strove to lead his party when he was not following it.

As usual, the hall was clamorous with folly and simulated passion. The bastards, rebels and prigs on his back benches were in full cry, boring for Bedlam. The microphones crackled with the bellowing of the mad cows of both sexes, enraged about Eurines, the new coinage proposed for Europe. A new leakage of sleaze was driving them wild. And a tired grey figure at the dispatch box was trying to repeat for the third time the empty soundbite that his rhetoric coaches had written and rehearsed for him.

Stooge pointed a trembling finger at the figure at the dispatch box. "Dread Spectre," he cried "Can that be . . ?" But the spectral Speaker was already dragging Stooge backwards through time to a more gracious parliamentary age. Prime Minister's Questions were then no bullring. The statesman at the dispatch box (he looked like the Walrus in *Alice*) was reading an answer he had composed for himself in fountain pen on the back of an envelope. It merely said that he proposed to transfer the question to his right honourable friend, whose responsibility it was.

Back, back up the years, they flew to the old Chamber before it was burnt down by the bonfire of the tally-sticks on which the Treasury did its sums for centuries before the computer. The statesman at the dispatch box was orating in the stately periods of a bygone age: "How is it possible that any honourable man, editing a public paper of such circulation as *The Times*, can reconcile to his conscience the act of having made public that which he must have known was intended to be a public secret?"

And a gentleman in the press gallery was scribbling his reply in print: "We hold ourselves to be responsible, not to politicians, but to the people of England for the accuracy and fitness of that which we think proper to publish. Whatever we conceive to be injurious to the public interests, it is our duty to withhold. But we ourselves are judges quite as proficient on that point as the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition."

"So not even then in those allegedly golden days could the doctors spin those rascals of the press to write what we wanted," exclaimed Stooge. "Good Spirit," he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before her, "I promise that I will honour the Spirit of Question Time Past. I will ask serious questions and give proper answers. I will see the Good even in my most tiresome colleagues. I will not take myself too seriously nor treat my opponents sarcastically . . . ." (Here take in a good deal of Dickensian sentimentality. For Dickens was a post-modernist before his time, constantly stepping outside his text to address the Reader.)

And so, as the Spectre Speaker observed, God bless Us, Every One! And thank God they are all going home to spend more time with their families for.

Double Chinn

THE TIMES DIARY

ONE of Tony Blair's greatest financial supporters popped up on Wednesday evening at a fundraising dinner for a leading Conservative organisation. Sir Trevor Chinn, head of Lex Services, one of the country's biggest car dealerships, was named last month as one of the superleague who had given substantially to the blind trust fund which provides finance for Tony Blair's private office. The entire fund is worth some £500,000.

One Wednesday evening, however, he brought a table of ten to a fundraising dinner at the Café Royale in London for the Conservative Friends of Israel. "It is an organisation within the arena of the Conservative Party," Chinn reluctantly admitted yesterday. So within the arena, in fact, that the Prime Minister turned up to make a speech. A six-figure sum was raised for the Conservative Friends for Israel, and Conservative Central Office will be receiving a tidy slice of that.

"My interest is in Israel," insists Chinn. "I am just as involved with the Labour Friends of Israel." Just to complete the circle, Chinn donor." So to sum up Chinn's position: not really a considerable donor to Labour while not the sort to attend real Conservative dos. The politicians would be proud.

● *Alan Howarth, the Tory MP who defected to Labour last year, continues to rise within his new party. He is still looking for a seat, but he has just been co-opted on to the executive of the Fabian Society. "He joined the society as soon as he defected," says Stephen Twigg, the general secretary. "He will continue to contribute to the debate about the party's direction." Not that the Webbs would approve.*

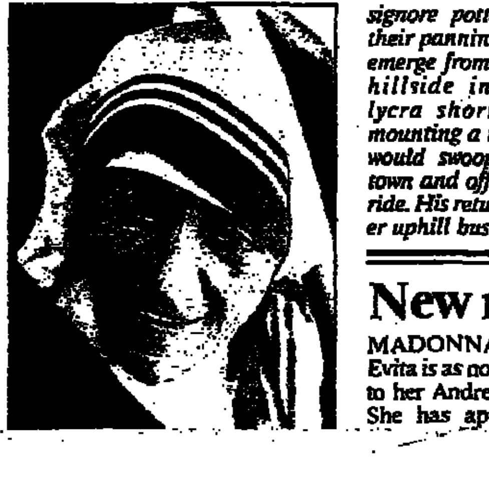
Roman home

ITALIAN-SPEAKER required, with background in the arts, to take over as curator of the Keats-Shelley memorial house in Rome. Undoubtedly one of the most agreeable berths in arts management, the house has been occupied by Bathseba Abse, 37, for the past six years, which included the bicentenaries of the births of both Keats and Shelley. Now, recently married to an Italian diplomat and heading with him to Brussels, she is leaving reluctantly.

and Alexandra visited the house, near the Spanish Steps, for the first time. "The job comes with a very noisy flat beneath the house," says Ms Abse, "so it is not a job for someone who wants a tranquil life. But for me, Italy has been what Keats called the 'paradise of exiles'."

Well spent?

MOTHER TERESA'S improving health is good news all round, except down at the accounts department of CNN in New Delhi where there is something of a conflict of interests. The network's bureau has spent an inordinate slice of its annual budget maintaining a round-the-clock vigil outside the Calcutta hospital where she recently underwent heart surgery.

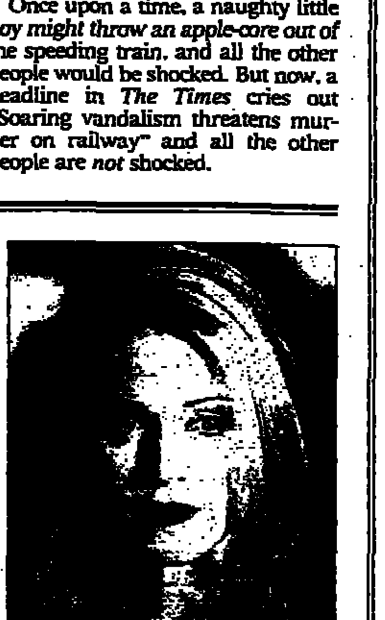


CNN's headache was turning into a migraine yesterday when Mother Teresa, who has suffered a heart attack, pneumonia, lung disease and kidney disease in the past three months, tottered cheerily into a waiting limousine to return to her convent for Christmas — swiftly followed by the CNN film crew.

● *Early mornings in Porto Ercole, the seaside playpen for Rome's Alfa Spyder classes, will be quieter after the death of Marcello Mastroianni. As the town's maturer signore pottered around buying their pannini, Mastroianni would emerge from his home up on the hillside in full cycling kit, lycra shorts included. Then mounting a multi-geared racer he would swoop down through the town and off for a heart-pumping ride. His return was a much sweatier uphill business.*

New material

MADONNA'S performance as Evita is as nothing, say her friends, to her Andrew Lloyd Webber act. She has apparently perfected a



E-viva Evita

tion, the two spent many tiring hours together in rehearsal, and naturally enough for a performer Madonna is said to have had Sir Andrew's voice and mannerisms off pat.

Sir Andrew was apparently blissfully unaware of the double act taking place. Although she is in London for the opening of the film of *Evita*, Madonna has not been spending enough time with Sir Andrew to try out her impersonation on him.

Philip Howard

SPEAK, MEMORY

From Brixton to Bahamas: the dangers of politicians abroad

Many statesmen, from Julius Caesar to General Galtieri, have embarked on adventures abroad to burnish their reputation. But the past too is a foreign country ripe for colonisation by politicians.

This week Tony Blair took the trip down memory lane that John Major, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan have followed before him. The trip was not an unalloyed success. His TV tale of a failed teenage trip to the Bahamas seems to have been more heavily embroidered than the Bayeux tapestry. Archer's syndrome, the condition of allowing natural creativity free play with one's memory of life before politics, is not, it seems, confined to Lord Archer.

We should not, however, be too censorious: we recipients of memories must share some of the guilt with the inventors of them. Politicians are now too packaged; every sound they emit is too bitten into shape; voters are thirsty for evidence of what their leaders are really like. The better they know what they did before they entered public life, the better they think they can judge their real fitness for it.

The public interest in Mrs Blair and Mrs Major may seem a frivolous distraction from the real beauty contest between competing tax regimes. But voters are fascinated by the leaders' wives because their choice of partner was the most important decision Messrs Blair and Major made before they entered the Commons. The choice of Cherie and Norma can be held to say more about their respective spouses than any number of, rarely enlightening, keynote speeches about core values.

Party spin-doctors, sensitive to how suspicious the public have become of current pronouncements, have become increasingly alive to the power of the past. Try Memory, or Coldharbour, Lane, Prime Minister. A boyhood in Brixton is now thought to communicate concern for the less fortunate more effectively than the pledge of another billion pounds for the National Health Service. The Marxists have been proved right: the personal, now, is always political.

President Clinton was elected on a promise to re-invent Government but his main political achievement seems to have been re-inventing himself. Slick Willie, the hustler from Hot Springs, a louche Arkansas gambling town became Bill, the boy from a town called Hope who in his journey from fatherless cabin to the Governor's mansion embodied the American Dream.

Mr Blair has been criticised for borrowing from the US President's campaign style. But it is Mr Major's own dramatisation of his journey from two rooms in South London to 10 Downing Street that seems the more obvious homage. From the 1992 election broadcast *The Journey* to the 1996 party conference sideswipe at Labour's old school ties, Mr Major has turned his narrative into a metaphor for meritocracy. Mr Major's earliest years in the suburban security of Worcester Park, his undistinguished academic record and his reliance on the patronage of others, such as Anthony Barber, have all been eclipsed by the careful construction of a Major myth.

Mr Blair, whose journey from Fettes to the Bar via St John's College Oxford is hardly an odyssey of the underprivileged, has had to work hard to pepper his past with moving moments. In his party conference speech this year the Labour leader opened his heart to talk of his father's illness. The emotion was sincere but the effect was mixed. The British, despite the efforts of Vanessa and Esther, tend not to like their emotions raw. Bared souls induce the same embarrassment among most Britons as bared bodies, even at special seaside corrals such as nudist beaches or party conferences.

Mr Blair's latest schoolboy memory, bunking off to the Bahamas, seems as though it might have been designed to convey a hint of rebelliousness, to temper the Labour leader's toothy wholesomeness. Mr Blair may feel that sharing his past sins makes him more human; so it may do. But it would be desirable if politicians refrained from telling the voters so much about the journeys they have made in the past and so little about where they propose to take the country in the future.

DONS AND DATA

Assessment of university research is difficult but worthwhile

League tables and external scrutiny are now an established part of British education. While schools may not love them the tables have been accepted and in some cases actively embraced. In so far as any debate about them remains it concerns the best means of producing the most informative material. Universities, on the other hand, show few signs of even grudging respect for external evaluation. Although the figures published yesterday, and reproduced in *The Times* this morning, are the result of the fourth such review in ten years, they still have few friends in the common rooms.

Some of the more lurid accusations of the past — such as the claim that the whole concept was a monstrous threat to academic freedom — seem to have been quietly dropped. Instead complaints focus in three main areas: that the bureaucratic demands made in collecting the required data are excessive; that it is impossible to make meaningful judgments between radically different forms of research; and that funding should not be contingent on this formula.

All three arguments have some truth but not enough to invalidate the project. Any system which requires 60 panels to examine 69 subject areas through four submitted pieces of research per staff member is going to generate an enormous amount of paperwork. After the last exercise in 1992 the Higher Education Funding Council promised a less burdensome structure for future years. It has not delivered. Such bureaucracy clearly imposes costs in terms of academic time. But there have also been benefits. Even dons in the most ancient of universities will concede, through gritted teeth, that outside pressure has forced them to develop research strategies and deal with those staff members whose output has been inexcusably low or persistently poor.

It is not easy to devise objective criteria for measuring research quality. With schools there is an agreed and commonly identified common benchmark — examination results — that can be used as a yardstick. No such simple medium exists for the output of dons. Nonetheless, both in the arts and sciences there are enough similarities to allow for the sort of intensive peer group review that was the hallmark of the 1996 enterprise. Academics seem content to use the same technique when deciding upon the appointments of professors. Engaging in the abstract thesis that there is no such notion as objective good may make for stimulating philosophical debate. It is not a basis from which the Department for Education can proceed.

On the matter of funding the critics have a valid point. After 1992 an elite set of 15 mostly older universities suggested that they receive virtually all available resources to concentrate on research while the rest made teaching their near-exclusive purpose. That was always a rather self-serving suggestion. It would be very hard to justify on the results now published. Some 59 universities have at least one department that has attained the highest grade available, one that implies the majority of output is at an international standard. That does not suggest that research funding should be allocated wholly on so narrow a basis.

The majority of our universities should continue to seek both high-quality research and teaching. This research exercise has highlighted a broadly based improvement since four years ago. Most dons would support that conclusion even if they detest the means by which it was generated.

EVEREST OF THE SPIRIT

The risk may be less but the search remains the same

Sir Ranulph Fiennes failed in his latest quest to trek alone across the breadth of Antarctica. Kidney stones crippled him after only 26 days, and he had to be airlifted to hospital in Chile. Yesterday he returned to Britain, a haggard and disappointed man. Yet even his failure has something heroic about it. The ageing, craggy explorer set himself one of the most challenging endurance tests in the world's most inhospitable continent, and made rapid progress. He continued even when in agony, crossing a formidable ridge in a near blizzard and displaying to the video camera the toll this took on his bandaged feet and broken body. On arriving at Heathrow he announced that he is off to Siberia for his next expedition.

Sir Ranulph is a very English eccentric, in the tradition of Scott, Livingstone, Wilfred Thesiger and others who have battled their way through deserts and icefields beyond the endurance of ordinary mortals, surviving as much on willpower as on their meagre rations. Getting there first was the motive that drove them on. The satisfaction for Livingstone and Sir Edmund Hillary was to plant their flags in places where their countrymen had never ventured before; Scott paid with his life for his determination to achieve similar glory for England. In all, willpower combined with obstinacy, hubris and masochism to fashion bodies and nerves of steel.

Critics can point to the artificial nature of such ventures nowadays. For if an explorer is crippled by frostbite, a lone yachtsman becalmed or a balloonist marooned in the desert, he can radio for help and wait until he is airlifted to safety. For Amundsen, Magellan and Lindbergh there was no such lifeline; they were testing the limits of endurance and technology on their own, and either made it or died in the attempt. Nowadays there are few natural frontiers left to explore, apart from the deepest trenches of the seabed or the wastes of outer space. Those who set out to walk across the Antarctic, race to the North Pole or circumnavigate the globe in a tiny vessel are imposing upon themselves conditions that they could ignore if they wished.

The challenge nowadays has therefore subtly changed. Those who excite our imagination and awe are the men and women who pitch themselves not against the simple elements but against their own handicaps or limitations. Sir Ranulph is now 52. His body bears the scars of earlier expeditions, and each further quest is a greater physical and psychological Everest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Duke's views on gun legislation

From Mr Tony Hill

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh likens guns to cricket bats (reports, December 19). If Thomas Hamilton had entered a gym with a cricket bat in his hand how many people could he have battered to death before being restrained by the adults?

The Duke should consider the real reasons for a call to ban handguns (letters, December 16, 17). Our society is getting more and more violent, and many of us do feel threatened. No doubt most members of gun clubs are "peaceable" citizens, and of no general risk, but there is that possibility that their guns could be used in anger or distress, as were Michael Ryan's and Thomas Hamilton's. Both were accepted members of the shooting fraternity until they turned their guns on innocent people.

The removal of any weapons from circulation has got to be a good step.

Yours etc,
TONY HILL,
15 The Slade,
Silverstone, Northamptonshire.
December 19.

From the Reverend Charles Jenkin

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh is mistaken when he says the Government's Bill on handgun legislation is blaming the shooting community for the tragedy at Dunblane. The type of weapons themselves was a significant factor in what drove Thomas Hamilton.

It is surely not incidental that the atrocities at Hungerford and Dunblane were committed with automatic and high-calibre weapons, the sheer power of which can go to a madman's head. The nature of .22 handguns and rifles, by contrast, encourages more self control.

More stringent checks on individuals will not help, in my view: is the shooting community really prepared to put up with the invasion of privacy, and extremely cautious presumption of fitness, that would be necessary to stop determined and ingenious psychopaths from obtaining high-powered weapons legally? The only way is to ban them.

Far from being a kneejerk reaction or fudge, the legislation's main proposals appear to me to find a very good balance between appropriate gun control and the legitimate rights of shooters. Why does anyone need to target-shoot with .45 pistols if not to participate in some way in an unhealthy macho culture? My view that this is immoral was confirmed when I saw a TV news report showing images of human beings as targets in a gun club.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES JENKIN,
The Rectory, 67 Dalby Road,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.
December 19.

From Mr Mark Marsh

Sir, Predictably, those who seek the prohibition of handguns have responded with emotion and crude insult to the Duke of Edinburgh's remarks.

I applaud the Duke. I have never owned a handgun, and have no wish to, but I do wish this debate were conducted in a rational manner. I regret that, thus far, it has been driven by emotion and I agree with Douglas Hurd that this is no basis for legislation.

Yours faithfully,
MARK MARSH,
5 Columbus Square,
Manor Road, Erith, Kent.
December 18.

From Mr K. Seedhouse

Sir, When Thomas Hamilton planned the destruction of the children of Dunblane, the termination of his own life was presumably of equal importance to his tormented mind. Perhaps the Duke has not considered how Hamilton could turn a cricket bat against himself.

Yours faithfully,
K. SEEDHOUSE,
4 The Burrows,
Cuddington, Cheshire.
December 19.

From Mr L. T. Allen

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh obviously felt that it is better to be right than politically correct.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ALLEN,
30 Prescott Fields,
Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
December 19.

Support for disabled

From the Reverend Peter D. McGuire

Sir, Alan Challoner (letter, December 12) says that caring for a disabled child "may undermine the family structure, causing disruption in the lives of siblings, and unmitigated stress to their parents".

The fact that many "normal" children also have these effects surely points to problems and stresses of family life being more complicated than he suggests.

Yours sincerely,
PETER D. McGUIRE,
9 Castle Hill, Eckington,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
December 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

UK universities 'at a crossroads'

From Sir Richard Luce,
Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Buckingham

Sir, In your report of December 13 on the LSE governing body's decision, in principle, to allow the introduction of top-up fees for students (see also leading article, December 14), you refer to the experience of the University of Buckingham as the only independent university.

May I, as retiring Vice-Chancellor of that university, impart to your readers a view that I have formed after five years' experience of higher education.

Universities in the UK are at a crossroads. The dramatic but welcome expansion in access to higher education of recent years has also seen a reduction in taxpayers' support per student. If this continues, we shall see a steady deterioration in the quality of higher education.

One painful example of this is the decline in staff/student ratios and small tutorials. The chances are that, whichever party forms a government after the general election, it will not have sufficient taxpayers' resources available to sustain a high-quality university education, in view of the range of other priorities in primary and secondary education and health services, and the pressure to contain public spending.

This presents a unique opportunity for Sir Ron Dearing's committee, appointed by the Government with the support of the Labour Party, to produce a coherent set of recommendations for the maintenance of high-quality British universities in the next century.

A radical rather than piecemeal approach is needed, but one that is implemented over a reasonable timespan. We must give all universities their independence by freeing them from dependence on direct government funding.

That freedom will facilitate a diverse range of universities able to accommodate an increasingly large and varied student market — from school leavers to mature students studying full-time or part-time, using a number of learning methods. Universities' success will depend upon matching the quality of service they can offer the student to the purposes of their particular missions.

This strategy must be buttressed by a new funding system, at the heart of which should be the recognition that those students who can afford to do so should have to pay a share of their tuition fees. The LSE has proposed a sliding-scale method of support governed by the income of the student or their parents. Those who are not being funded directly by the State must be encouraged to develop savings and loan schemes to enable them to pay their fees.

It requires courage on the part of both universities and politicians to journey down this path. The LSE should be congratulated on taking this decision and acting as a catalyst for change.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Buckingham,
Buckingham MK18 1EG.
December 16.

CPS and the disclosure of evidence

From Mr Christopher
Wilson-Smith, QC

Sir, The legal profession will have read with grave disquiet the proposal that the Crown Prosecution Service and the police will determine the circumstances in which unused material is disclosed to the defence (report, December 11).

Experience has shown that the CPS or the police seldom give adequate attention to unused material, while it is normal for the defence to review this material with care. It is surprising how often evidence of crucial importance to the defence is discovered in this material.

The profession will have no confidence in a system where the defence are dependent on the Crown or the police to determine what they should see and what they consider relevant. It is precisely this situation which has led to serious miscarriages of justice. Objectivity is what is required — a quality for which the prosecuting authorities have not always been renowned.

These proposals appear to be a unilateral and fundamental change of policy. I suspect that the courts would be very concerned if there were to be such a far-reaching change in what is now accepted practice: and it will place an intolerable burden on those who prosecute at the Bar.

Surely, it is still an important principle that justice must be seen to be done. What Barbara Mills, QC, contemplates will do nothing to enhance this maxim.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WILSON-SMITH,
35 Essex Street, Temple, WC2.
December 12.

Role of Croatia

From the Ambassador of
the Republic of Croatia

Sir, I express my deepest astonishment at your leading article of November 29, "The egg revolution", in which you attempted to equate the policies and roles of the Croatian President, Dr Franjo Tudjman, with those of the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic. Such a thesis is totally unfounded and misplaced.

President Tudjman was among the first to offer a political solution to the so-called Yugoslav crisis. Croatia was first to recognise the independence of successor states to former Yugoslavia, including Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under the determined leadership of President Tudjman, Croatia played a decisive role in changing the balance of power in the region last year, thus reversing a major part of the earlier gains of Greater Serbian expansionism and creating the strategic conditions that finally lead to the conclusion of the Dayton peace agreement. The full implementation of that agreement is one of Croatia's national goals.

President Tudjman's commitment to co-operate fully with the international community contributed decisively in establishing Croatia as a stable and potentially prosperous country based on democratic pluralism and free market economy.

Unlike Serbia, Croatia is a member of all the major international organisations — including the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — and the international banking community regards Croatia now as a highly desirable partner.

Your attempt to artificially equate Croatia and Serbia, and their leaders, can serve no constructive purpose.

Yours faithfully,
ANTE CICIN-SAIN,
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia,
21 Conway Street, W1.
December 18.

Jams tomorrow

From Professor Emeritus
Anthony Ralston

Sir, Richard Botwood is quite right to stress the need for more investment in public transport systems in London (letter, December 14: see also letters November 20, 27 and December 4). He is also correct that investment alone will not be enough to solve the fast-approaching traffic gridlock in London and that there is a need to "initiate a city-wide strategy which includes sticks as well as carrots".

There is only one "stick" that has much chance of working. This is road pricing. Drivers wishing to enter London during peak traffic times must pay for that privilege and those living in London must also pay for driving during peak periods. Until recently such a policy would have been technically infeasible but the technology now exists.

While implementing road pricing would be expensive, the cost would be rapidly recovered by the charges. Additionally such charges could provide a source of revenue for upgrading public transport.

Undoubtedly road pricing would be unpopular with many, but it does stand a fair chance of ameliorating, if not solving, London's traffic problems. The chief impediment is neither fiscal nor technological, but rather an absence of political will to propose such a policy and to carry through its introduction.

Sincerely,
ANTHONY RALSTON,
Flat 4, Albert Court,
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7.
December 15.

Royal succession

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, On the question of equal rights of succession to the throne, Nigel Miskin (letter, December 17) asks: "Is it not rather arrogant for us to presume to dictate to future generations in this way?"

By that token, has not this country always been labouring under an arrogant presumption that only male heirs can succeed?

Mr Miskin questions changing the present order of succession so that the Princess Royal would be raised above the Duke of York, his little daughters and Prince Edward. Why not? Personally, I think that our popular and hard-working Princess Royal would make an excellent monarch. We could do worse.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.
December 17.

From the Dean and Tutor in Ancient
History, Merton College, Oxford

Sir, Had Lord Archer's proposed rules for the royal succession been in force at the time, Kaiser Wilhelm II would have succeeded to the British throne on August 5, 1901.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS BRAUN,
Merton College, Oxford.
December 17.

Sport letters, page 37

Just solution to 'litigation lunacy'

From Mr D. E. Downs

Sir, The sentiments expressed by Simon Jenkins on December 14, lamenting the culture of litigation, compensation and punitive damages which threatens to "poison the courtesies and disciplines that hold citizens together", will surely be echoed by many.

If punitive damages, when awarded, were paid into a charitable trust then honour would be satisfied, the person or body doing the wrong punished and the victim would have his redress without financial reward, when there was no financial loss. Such a trust could be administered by the Charities Aid Foundation and, when considering distribution, the wishes of the plaintiff could be considered.

With no possibility of direct financial reward there would be less frivolous cases brought to court and the simple apology for a wrong-doing might again become acceptable.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. DOWNS,
22 Princes Gardens,
Cliftonville, Margate, Kent.
December 15.

From Mr Nigel Douglas

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article about litigation lunacy made ironical reading in such close juxtaposition to the obituary of Group Captain W. G. G. Duncan-Smith.

On the one hand a man who is awarded £220,000 for being put in an armlock during his arrest by police; on the other, a man who was "badly bruised from bouncing off his aircraft wingtip" when shot down and forced to bale out, after which he "plummeted into a polluted patch of sea ingesting a good deal of oil" before being rescued, yet discharged himself from hospital the following day in order to carry on the battle.

Whom should he have sued? Churchill? Hitler? And for how much?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL DOUGLAS,
Eythorne House,
Eythorne, Dover, Kent.
December 14.

From Dr C. T. Morley

Sir, If punitive damages were paid not to the plaintiff but to the State they would vanish overnight.

Yours,
C. T. MORLEY,
Trinity College, Cambridge.
December 14.

The brew that cheers

From Mr Adrian Brodkin

Sir, I read that researchers at Hull University have discovered that, of two groups of people asked to watch a comedy film, those who were given two bottles of strong lager laughed more than those who drank an alcohol-free brew — thereby increasing their chances of a long and happy life (report, later editions, December 17).

Leaving aside the fact that drinking alcohol-free beer or lager is hardly ever a laughing matter, this is not a startling conclusion.

Indeed I laughed so long and hard at this fatuous finding that I am now in a state of perfect health and looking forward with keen anticipation to the forthcoming festivities.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, N2.
December 17.

Aria on a shoestring

From Mrs Janette Lloyd

Sir, It may delight Rodney Milnes, fresh from the "conspicuous consumption" of La Scala ("No expense spared, unhappily", Arts, December 12), to hear of a performance of Gluck's *Armide* in Oxford in 1970.

The University Opera Club, of which I was a member of the chorus, staged the whole thing for £25, the set being composed of Bacofoil.

We, as nymphs, wore dyed sheets, and were told not to approach the front of the stage lest any observant critics should be appalled at our budget clothing.

As a performer, I was not in a position to judge whether the "spare, tense sound-world" Gluck aimed for was enhanced by the poverty of the set. But when I say that the Messenger was none other than the wine expert, Oz Clarke, and that soprano Emma Kirkby was First Nymph, hindsight suggests we got *something* right.

Yours sincerely,
JANETTE LLOYD,
6 Oliver's Battery Gardens,
Winchester, Hampshire.
December 13.

Bread on the waters?

From the Reverend Dr Peter Whale

Sir, In these days of moral confusion, what hope do our young people have when the largest branch of Dillons in Birmingham sells cards inscribed "to the one I love" in packets of five?

Yours sincerely,
P. R. WHALE,
83 Chaddesley Court,
Nod Rise, Coventry, Warwickshire.
December 19.

[illegible]

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 19: Commander Richard Aylard RN was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Private Secretary and Treasurer to The Prince of Wales.

Mr John Doyle (President, Royal Watercolour Society) was received by The Queen and presented a book containing a collection of sketches to mark Her Majesty's Seventieth Birthday.

Mrs Judy Dixey (Gallery Director) and Mr Francis Bowyer and Miss Claire Dalby (Vice-Presidents) were present.

The Queen held a Council at 12.30.

There were present: The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish (Minister of State, Department of Social Security), the Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP (Secretary of State for Defence), the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland), the *Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke* MP (Chancellor of the Exchequer) and the Rt Hon Lord James Douglas-Hamilton MP (Minister of State, Scottish Office).

The Rt Hon Sir John Mummery was sworn in as a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Order of St Etheldreda, today attended a Luncheon at the Deanery, Ely Cathedral, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 19: The Duke of York this afternoon left Hong Kong for the Philippines.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival at Manila Airport by Her Majesty's Ambassador (His Excellency Mr Adrian Thorpe).

Later The Duke of York was received by The President of the Republic of the Philippines at the Presidential Palace.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception given by Her Majesty's Ambassador at the British Embassy.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 19: The Princess *Margaret, Countess of Snowdon* this evening attended a Gala Concert at the Stables Theatre, Wavendon, Milton Keynes, given by John Dankworth and Cleo Laine in aid of the *refurbishment of the* theatre.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Commander The Lord Cottesloe).

Polar Medals

The Queen has been pleased to approve the following awards for outstanding achievement and service to British Polar Research:

Antarctic 1992-94
Nigel Brian Dean, diesel mechanic; Steven Thomas Dow, plumber and winter base commander

Antarctic 1993-95
Steven Robert Cuthbertson, meteorologist and communications manager

Antarctic 1994-95
Duncan Haigh, physicist and win*ter base commander*

Antarctic to 1995
Brian Mallon, electrician and winter base commander

Antarctic to 1996
Philip Stuart Anderson, meteorologist; Stuart Andrew Bell, electronics technician and radio operator

Antarctic and Arctic to 1996
Robert Wellesley Burton, meteorologist, biological assitant and museum curator

London University

Professor David Cannadine, Moore Collegiate Professor of History at Columbia University, New York, to be Director of the Institute of Historical Research from May 1, 1998.

Today's royal engagements

The *Duke* of *Kent*, as Chancellor of Surrey University, will preside at the conferment of degrees ceremony in Guildford Cathedral at 10.00.

Lord-Lieutenant

Sir Paul Nicholson to be Lord-Lieutenant for the county of Durham in succession to Mr David Grant who will be retiring on *January 18, 1997.*

John Langeloth Loeb

A memorial *service* for John Langeloth Loeb will be held on Thursday, January 16, 1997 at 11am at Temple Emanu-El, Fifth Avenue and 65th Street, New York.

Legal appointment

Mrs Sarah Anne Williams to be a full-time chairman of Social Security, Medical, Disability and Child Support Appeal Tribunals from January 20 1997.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.T.M. Ind
and Lady Iona Hay
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Dr and Mrs John Ind, of Chelsea, London and Iona Charlotte, second daughter of the Earl and Countess of Kinnoull, of Abernyte, Perthshire.

Mr N.J. Hodson
and Miss M-L.L. Smulders
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Denys Hodson, of Fairford, Gloucestershire, and Mary-Lou, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Smulders-Grasso, of Thousand Oaks, California.

Mr P. Jensen
and Miss K.E. Walsh
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr *and Mrs Svend Jensen, of* Highgate, London and Katherine, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs John Walsh, of Belfast.

Mr J.R.M. Petter
and Miss M. Walsh
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Petter, of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Walsh, of Norwood, London.

Mr A.G. Proctor
and Miss C.E. Blake
The engagement is announced between Andrew, second son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Proctor, of Ripley, Surrey, and Courtney, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Victor Blake, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr A.D.J. Ramsay
and Miss S.C.M. Pritchard
The engagement is announced between Adam, younger son of Mr David Ramsay, of Petersfield, and the late Mrs Jane Ramsay, and *Suzanne, younger daughter of Dr* and Mrs Charles Pritchard, of West Ashling, Chichester, West Sussex.

Mr N.M. Turner
and Miss L.J. Smart
The engagement is announced *between Nicolas, elder son of Mr* and Mrs P.J. Turner, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M.R. Smart, of Purley, Surrey.

Mr R.D.A. Windle
and Miss C.E. Knight
The engagement is announced between Roy, son of Professor and Mrs A.H. Windle, of Cambridge, and Catharine, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D.V. Knight, of St John's Wood, London.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Wilson Croker, politician and writer, Galway, 1780; Sir Robert Menzies, Prime *Minister of Australia 1939-41 and* 1949-66, Jeparit, Victoria, 1894; George, Duke of Kent, Sandringham House, Norfolk, 1902.

DEATHS: Ambroise Paré, surgeon, Paris, 1590; Erich von Ludendorff, German First World War general, Munich, 1937; James Hilton, novelist, Long Beach, California, 1954; John Steinbeck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1962, New York, 1968; Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, Prime Minister of Spain 1973, assassinated, Madrid, 1973; Bobby Darin, singer, songwriter and actor, Hollywood, 1973; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, Geneva, 1982.

The first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1560.

Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was proclaimed President of France, 1848.

A FLAMBOYANT costume for the celebrated Ballet Russes production of *Scheherazade* doubled its estimate to sell for £49,400 in a sale devoted to Russian art at Sotheby's in London yesterday (John Shaw writes).

The costume for Jane Marnac as Zobeide was sensational for the time. She wore a revealing embroidered gossamer top and a pair of pantaloons split to the thigh. An imposing turban decorated with a large pink feather completed the design, which was bought privately.

It was one of several exotic costumes *designed by Lev Bakst (1866-1924) for Diaghilev's* famous company which revolutionised ballet at the turn of the century. His design for *The Firebird*, based on a traditional Russian fairy story, made £55,400 (£25,000-£35,000) and a third from the ballet *Narcisse*, a flowing confection in midnight blue went for £26,450 (£18,000-£22,000).

The designs were among the top lots in a sale devoted to Russian works of art which made £2.6 million; 310 of the 481 lots offered found buyers in an auction which was 64.45 per cent sold.

Michael Bing, the auctioneer, said the sale drew many new Russian buyers in addition to those who bid for the first time at a previous sale in July. He said: "Paintings performed extremely strongly with particularly high prices achieved by the ballet designs."

Luncheons

London Chamber of Commerce
Mr Sebastian Coe, MP, was the guest speaker at the Christmas luncheon of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign.

Sir Brian Jenkins, president, was the host.

National Sporting Club
Mr Dermot Reeve was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr David Willis presided.

Birthdays today

Mr Bill Abbott, former Governor, Pentonville prison, 55; Miss Jenny Agutter, actress, 44; Mr Michael Beaumont, Seigneur of Sark, 69; Lord Brabazon of Tara, 50; *Mr* Simon Channing, former chairman, London Philharmonic, 36; Sir George Coldstream, QC, 89; Mr Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 49; Mr Peter Cundell, racehorse trainer, 48; Mr Charles Denton, television and film producer, 59; Mr D.F. Gardner, chairman, Brixton Estate, 53; the Earl of Harrowby, 74; Mrs Ros Hepplewhite, former chief executive, Child Support Agency, 44; Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, 70; *Mr* Justice Lightman, 57; Baroness Thomas of Walliswood, 61; Miss Rachel Trickett, former Principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 73; Mr Karl Wendlinger, *racing driver*, 28; Mr John Whitney, former director-general, IBA, 66; Mr John Wilkins, Editor, *The Tablet*, 60.

Appointments

Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, Mr Nigel Jones, MP, and Mr Christopher King to be members of the governing body of the British Association for Central and Eastern Europe.

Memorial service

Mr Geoff Hamilton
A service and *celebration for the* life and skills of Mr Geoff Hamilton, BBC gardening journalist, was held yesterday at St John's Wood Church. The Rev John Slater officiated and Miss Gay Search read the lesson.

Mr Alan Titchmarsh, read *Duncton Hill* by Hilaire Belloc, Mr John Stoddart, Principal of Sheffield Hallam University, read *The Road of Life* part of *The Earthly Paradise* by William Morris, Mr Adam Pasco, Editor of *Gardeners World*, read from Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* and Mr Will Wyatt, Chief Executive, Broadcast, BBC, read from Geoff Hamilton's preface to *Living Garden*. Mr Tony Hamilton, *twin brother*, gave an address.

Mr Chris Barber and his New Orleans Band played during the service. Among those present were:

Mrs Hamilton (widow), Mr Stephen Hamilton *(son)*, Mr and Mrs *Nicholas Hamilton and Mr and* Mrs Christopher Hamilton (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr Mark Hamilton (brother), Mr and Mrs Anthony Hamilton (brother and sister-in-law), Mr Jeremy Irving and *Mr* William Irving (stepsons), Mr and Mrs Matthew Hamilton, Mr David Corre, Mrs David Hamilton Corre, Miss Victoria Hamilton, Mr *and Mrs William Hamilton*-Stephens, Mrs Colette Hamilton, Ms Tracey Hamilton, Mr and Mrs William Ivory, Ms Kathleen Foreman, Mr and Mrs Roger Geeson, Mr and Mrs John Macknish, Mr and Mrs Keith Walker, Mr Peter Higgs, Miss Lisa Howard, Ms Anita Morton, Ms Naomi Lowe, *Mr* Richard Walls.

Sir Roger Cary (a consultant to the Director-General, BBC) *and Lady* Cary with Mr Mark Thompson (Controller BBC 2), Mr Colin Adams (controller of productions), Mr John Percival, Mr Shamus Georghegan, Ms Anne Millman, Ms Julia Bench and Ms Rosemary Allen (Gardeners World), Mr John Stirland *and Mr Martin Fish (Radio* Nottingham), Mr Liam McCarthy (Radio Leicester), Ms Kathy McGovan (Radio 3), Mr Denis Gartside (director, Asian Programmes, BBC Midlands), Ms Claire Stride (BBC Midlands and East), Mr Doug Young (BBC Books) Mr Nick Brett (also representing the Editor, *Radio Times*), with past and present members of staff: Sir Angus Stirling.

Mr Geoff Amos, Mr and Mrs Anthony Andrews, Mr and Mrs Ralph Bell, Mr John Bird, Mr David Border, Mr Neil Bragg, Ms Sue Braun, Ms Anne Swithinbank, Mrs Alan Titchmarsh, Mrs Connie Thrower, Dr Stefan Buczacki, Ms Elizabeth Carew Hunt, Mrs G Clay-Jones, Ms Sue Darlington-Jeal, Mr and Mrs Gerry Dawson, Mr Howard Drury, Mr Jim Dumighan, Mr and Mrs James Ebdon, Mr Barry Edgar, Mr Charles Elliot, Ms Catherine Fenton, Mr and Mrs John Ferry, Mr Bob Flowerdew, Mrs Sue Fish, Mr Adam Frost, Ms Sarah Greene, Ms Phippa Greenwood, *Miss Heather Holden-Browne, Mr* Jeremy Clarkson, Mr John Grimshaw, Mr and Mrs Dan Howlson.

Ms Belinda Ironside, Ms Annabel Ironside, Mr John Kenyon, Mr John Kendall, Ms Marcia Kirby, Mrs P Khudhairy, Mr John King, Mr Michael Leapman, Ms Jean Laughton, Mr Roy Lancaster, Ms M Joyce, Mr John Kelly, Ms S Kershaw, Mr Tim Manning, Dr G *McCormack*, Mr Keith McMorran, Dr Jenny Owen, Mr Ken Page, Mr Richard Penfold, Mr and Mrs Peter Peskett, Mr Clay Perry, Ms Liz Rigby, Mr Steve Pink, Mr and Mrs David Walne, Mr Steve Pierson, Mr Ron Sowton, Mr Frank Phillips, Mrs Dorothy Rose, Ms Lorraine Shone, Mr Alan Smith, Ms Judith Fell, Mr and Mrs Ian Spence, Professor and Mrs David Stevens, Ms Stephanie Silk, Ms Gillian Thornton, Mr Laurence Vulliamy.

Professor Michael Alder (Writtle College of Agriculture), Miss Margaret Waddy (vice-chairman, Institute of Horticulture also representing the chairman of the Eastern branch), Mr Robin Maynard (Friends of the Earth), Mr D Allen (Horticulture Trade Association, Ms Sharon Amos and Ms Miranda Innes (*Country Living* Magazine), Ms Rosie Atkins (*Gardens Illustrated*), Ms Ursula Buchan (*The Sunday Telegraph*), Mr Ian Mobsby (*Daily Express*), Mr Jeremy Lewis (*Nottingham Evening Post*), Mr Paul Cannon (*Countryside and Gardening*), Mr Roger Chandler (CPRE) and Mrs Chandler.

Mr John James (Woodlands Trust), Mr Fred Downham, Ms Diana Stenson, Ms Sue Phillips and Ms Daphne Ledward (Classic Gardening Forum), Mr David Austin (David Austin Roses) and *Mrs Austin, Mr Derek Cox (Goscote* Nurseries), Ms Jane Darby (Darby Nurseries), Mr Robert Hillier and Mr John Hillier (Hillier Nurseries), Mr Philip Woodward (James Coles & Sons Nurseries), Ms Jane Sterndale-Bennet (Hardy Plant Society), Mr D B Taylor (The Cottage Garden) and Mrs Taylor, Mr Adrian Darby and Ms Lynne Frankland (Plantlife, Natural History Museum), Mr Phil Franklin (Phil Franklin Productions), Mr Alan Gear (Henry Doubleday Research) and Mrs Gear, Mr Peter Harper (Centre for Alternative Technology), Mr Patrick Holden (Soil Association).

Mr Ferdinand Hensby (Hensby *Composts*), *Mr Kim Hurst (Fertile* Fibre) and Mrs Hurst, Mr Richard Hurst (Institute of Horticulture, Eastern branch), Lieutenant-Colonel T Marsh (National Gardens Scheme), Mr Cor Van Hage (Van Hage Garden Company) and Mrs Van Hage, Mr David Kerley (Marshall Shields), Mr Tony Layre and Mr Stephen Lacey (Catalyst Television), *Mr* Stan Mernagh (Wessex Horticultural Products), Ms Sibyll Reiser (SOSTRANF), Mr Norman Steemson (Moon Light Productions), Mr Michael Warren (Garden Writers Guild), Mr Oliver Watts (RSPB), Mr Brian Woodfield and Mr Maurice Woodfield (Woodfield Brothers) and representatives of the National Trust, Horticultural Therapy, English Nature, the NSCPG, the Professional Gardeners' Guild, Tree Aid, *Practical Gardening, Garden News*, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners, the National Chrysanthemum Society and the British Association of Landscape *Industries*.

Latest wills

Edward James **Abbott**, of Fontmell Magna, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,711,854 net.

Anne Doris **Rose**, of London N3, left estate valued at £1,265,745 net.
She left £3,000 to Jewish Welfare Board; £1,000 each to Nightingale House, Friends of Botleys Park Hospital, Jewish Blind Society, Jewish Home and Hospital at Tottenham, and Alan Freeman Trust.

Edgar **Morris**, solicitor, of Southport, Merseyside, left estate valued at £693,325 net.

Phyllis Frances **Watt**, of Liverpool 18, left estate valued at £578,246 net.
She left £1,000 to Cancer Research Campaign and to King George's Fund for Sailors.

Robert **Monroe**, retired company director, of Lower Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside, left estate valued at £659,280 net.

Maurice Henry **Sackloff**, of Whitefield, Manchester, left estate valued at £601,373 net.
He left £2,000 each to Manchester Jewish Home of the Aged, Heaton Park Synagogue, Manchester Jews' Benevolent Society, Jewish Social Services, Delamere School, Bayit Lepletot of Girls Town Jerusalem, Lubavitch Children of Chernobyl in Israel, Jewish Blind Society and Brookvale Home for the Handicapped.

Marjorie **Green**, of Windermere, Cumbria, left estate valued at £595,907 net.

Peter John **Stilling**, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, left estate valued at £657,325 net.

Joyce Marion **Jeffrey**, of Exeter, Devon, left estate valued at £541,774 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Now, my friends, all that is true, all that is just and pure all that is lovable and attractive, whatever is excellent and admirable - fill your thoughts with these things.
Philippians 4 : 8

BIRTHS

AMBLER - Jane and Christopher, are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Poppy Louise, on December 1st, 1996.

CARDONE - On 17th December, at The Portland Hospital, to Christine (née Zingone) and Richard, an adorable son, Hayden Alfred James.

CLARK - On 19th December to Margaret (née Sidebottom) and Bryan, God's Gift of a son, John, a brother for David and Matthew.

COX-JOHNSON - On 18th December, to Caroline (née Wheldon) and Tim, a daughter, Eliza Rose, a sister for Frederick.

ESSE - On 16th December, to Elizabeth and William, a son, Tristan William Hare, a brother for Barnaby and Otto.

FLANAGAN - On 18th December in Adelaide, to Sally (née Wells) and Daniel, a daughter, Josephine Mary.

GOULD - On *December 6th* to Kristin (née Jones) and Graham, a beautiful son Thomas, a brother for William and always remembering James.

HEALY - On 17th December, to Ann (née Wheatley) and David, a son, Jonathon David, a brother *for* Sarah-Ann.

JONES - On 13th December, to Annie (née Moyles) and Chris, a daughter, Charlotte Jessica Florence.

JONES - On 17th December *1996*, Peggy Phyllis arrived. Paul and Sophie are thrilled with their daughter.

McDOUGALL - On December 18th, to *Susie (née* [illegible]*)* and Torquil, a son, Ian Fergus Steele, a brother for Flora.

MERSH - On 18th December, to Sarah (née Bredin) and Angus, a son, William Robert Piercy, a brother for Fergus.

THE TIMES

CHRISTMAS PERIOD
Deadlines & Opening Times
Birth, Marriage & Death Notices.

For notices to appear on Tuesday December 24th the deadline is Monday December 23rd at 12 noon.

For notices to appear on Thursday December 26th and Friday December 27th the deadline is Tuesday December 24th at 12 noon.

Wednesday *December* 25th Office Closed.
Thursday December 26th Office Closed.
Normal hours Friday December 27th.
☎ *0171 680 6880*

BIRTHS

PADFIELD - On 17th December, at The Portland Hospital, to *Nicholas and Iona, a daughter, Sophie Charlotte.*

ROSSITER-LANGWORTHY on December 18th to Annette Julia (Née Moore) and Reinhard, a son, Charles Edward Graham Monty. A big welcome, friend.

SAVAGE - On 4th December 1996, to Maura and Tim, a daughter, Freya Maria Ellen, a sister for Robyn and Olivia.

WILLIS FLEMING - On 18th December, to Edwina and Peter, a son, Henry Errington, a brother for Oliver and Lydia.

WILSHIRE - On 14th December, at R.C.H Treliske, to Lisa and Martin, a daughter, Madeleine Sophie, a sister for Tamsyn.

WRIGHT - On 18th December, to Susan (née Crate) and *Philip, a son, Miles Sterling.*

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BULLOCK:MARKES - On 20th December 1946 at Holy Trinity, Brompton, Richard Bullock to Beryl Markes. Present address: 12 Peterborough Villas, SW6 2AT.

DEATHS

BARNARD - Martha (Jean), on 19th December, aged 83, of Basingstoke and Lymington. Wife of the late Dick, mother to Jennifer, Michael, Hugh and Bruce. Following a life *of service to others will be* sadly missed by many. Funeral details and flowers or donations to Parkinsons *Disease or Bible Society c/o* Diamond Funeral Directors, Lymington, tel: (01590) *672060.*

BARRETT - Pamela Mary, of Emsworth, in her 80th year, on 18th December, *peacefully after a long* illness. Daughter of the late Col.BHH and Mrs Barrett. Funeral Service Friday 3rd January 1997, at 11.30am, Chichester Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Alzheimers Disease Society *c/o* W Wright & Son, The Square, Emsworth, Hampshire, tel: (01243) 372255.

BOYNE - On 17th December, suddenly at home in Skeeby, North Yorkshire, Kathleen Hazel (née Dods), wife of the *late John Boyne*, dearly loved mother of George Cross and much loved by all her family. Funeral Tuesday. Friends please meet for service in St. Edwin's Church, High Coniscliffe, Nr Darlington at 12.15 p.m. followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please.

CAMPBELL - On 18th December 1996, Major Rollo Campbell DFC, KTR, after a brave fight against Cancer, aged 81. Much loved husband of Naomi, father of Dugald and Fiona and dearly loved *grandfather*. Family funeral. Donations if desired to Cancer Research.

CARR-WALKER - On 17th December, peacefully after a long illness, courageously fought, aged 50 years. Richard Carr-Walker much loved husband of Jessica, father of Paola and Gregory, son of Rena and brother of Carole and Diana. A service of Thanksgiving will take place at St. Nicholas Church, West Tanfield, Ripon, N.Yorks, on Monday 23rd *December* at *2pm*. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be given *for* Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London. A plate provided at the service.

CARTWRIGHT - Katherine Faith, peacefully on 18th December, of Sydling St Nicholas and formerly of Cornwall. Much loved by her family. Private Cremation.

CRICHTON - On 17th *December* 1996, in Gibraltar, aged 87, Michael, Commander RN, of Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh, second son of the late Captain R.L. Crichton, RN. Much loved brother, uncle and great-uncle. Funeral on Thursday 9th January at Crom *Parish* Church, *Near* Derrylin, Co.Fermanagh, at 2pm. Enquiries to W.T. Morrison & Co, Enniskillen, tel: (01365) 322071.

CRITCHLEY - Diana (née *Fishwick*), wife of the late Brigadier A.C. Critchley and *mother of Glenna and Bruce*, died peacefully at home, on Tuesday 17th December, aged 85. Cremation service *for* family and friends 24th *December* at 11.20am, at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Bracknell. Memorial Service in Spring 97. Details Cyril H. Lovegrove, tel: (01344) 22114.

EPSTEIN - Queenie, passed away peacefully, on 14th December. Wife of the late Harry Epstein, mother of the late Brian and Clive. Lovingly remembered by her grandchildren Joanne, Henry and Amanda, daughter-in-law Barbara, sisters-in-law Lorna Hyman and Stella Canter and all her family and *friends*.

FULLWOOD - Dominic StJohn, on 13th December 1996, aged 29 years, suddenly as the result of a tragic accident. Much loved son of Stan and Yvette and brother of Elliot. Funeral Service on Monday 23rd December, at 2.30pm, at Reading Crematorium. *Flowers* to Alexander & Dry, 1 Seal Road, Basingstoke, tel: (01256) 844663.

GOSLING - Angela, peacefully at home, on 18th December. Much loved wife of Robin and beloved by all her family. Family cremation, no flowers by request but donations, if desired, to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Memorial Service to be arranged.

GROUNDWATER - George Sutherland, on 17th December 1996, after a long illness. Beloved husband of the late Libby and dearly loved father of Iain. Retired Bank of Scotland Trustee Manager. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Edinburgh, Main Chapel, on Monday 23rd December, at 11am, to which all friends are invited. No flowers please, but donations may be sent to Huntingdons Disease, c/o Rosanne Cetnarskyj at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

HASTINGS - On *December* 6th 1996. Jack Merriman aged 96 years died peacefully at Forest Oaks Nursing Home Brockenhurst *formerly of* Kenya beloved husband of the late Winifred and a much loved uncle. Cremation has taken place privately.

JOHNSON - Walter J., publisher, on *Sunday* 15th December, aged 88 years. *Publisher of* Ablex Publishing Corporation, founder and former CEO of *Academic* Press and former board director of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. Father of Marianne Cruikshank, Herbert M.Johnson and Marjorie Hewitt, grandfather of 9 and great-grandfather of 6. A *Memorial* Service was held in Bronxville, New York on 18th December. Donations, if desired, to University College London Development Fund, c/o Development Director, UCL, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT.

LE MARE - Joy (née Smallwood), of *Allithwaite*, died on 17th December, at Westmorland General Hospital, Kendal. Commemoration and cremation at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium, at 2pm, on 23rd December. *Joy's wish would be for* donations to Action Aid, Hamlyn House, Archway, N19 5PG.

LOWE - Edward Ivan, died peacefully in hospital, 18th December 1996. Funeral at Woking Crematorium, at 4pm, on 27th December 1996.

MOORE - On December 17 1996, after his 90th birthday party Lt. Col. Francis Roger Bryanston. A brilliant father and grandfather. Funeral Service will take place at St. Lukes Church, Sway, on Tuesday, 24th December at 12.00 noon, followed by Interment. Family *flowers* only but donations in his memory may be sent *for* Voluntary Service Overseas c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, *Lymington*, SO41 9DN.

SMITH - (Née Lea) Marigold Geraldine on Wednesday, 18th December, peacefully at Hereford. Cremation at Hereford Crematorium on Thursday, 2nd January, at 1. 45 p.m. No flowers. If desired donations for the British Diabetic Association may be sent to Dawe Bros., 115 Westfaling Street, *Hereford*.

THOMPSON - Bryan Harry, died peacefully at home, in Lyminge, Kent, on 18th December, after a short illness, courageously borne. Much loved husband of June, father of Stephen, Clive and Kathryn and grandfather of Adam, Lilly, Jack, Joseph, Matthew, Rebecca and Samuel. Cremation 4pm, on Monday 23rd December, at Hawkinge, Folkestone. *Flowers from family and close friends, if desired*, to Hambrook & Johns, 1 Dover Road, Folkestone, CT20 1JJ, or donations to NSPF.

VINCOMBE - Michael Conway, passed away peacefully, in Blackheath Hospital, on *Tuesday 17th December* 1996. The funeral will take place, on Monday 30th December 1996. The service will be in All Saints Church, All Saints Drive, SE3, at 10.30am, followed by the committal, at Lewisham Crematorium, Verdant Lane, Catford, SE6, at 11.30am. Family flowers only please. Donations to R.N.L.I. via Francis Chappell & Sons, 72 High Street, Eltham, SE9 1BT, tel: (0181) 850 1039.

WEAVER - Margaret (née Swingler), of Hall Green, Birmingham, passed away after years of pain and suffering, on December 14th 1996, aged 83 years. Beloved wife *of* Douglas and mother *of* Robert. Sadly missed by all who knew her. Service at Robin Hood Crematorium, Solihull, on Monday 23rd December, at 3.30 pm.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BUTTERWORTH - Alan. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Alan Butterworth, *former Headmaster of New College School, will be held* in the Chapel of New College, Oxford, on Saturday 18th January at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

CARPENTER - Miss V.R. Formerly of Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School, Islington. Always remembered, B.V.F. and *family*.

FRANKLIN - Dr. Owen Geoffrey. Died *20th* December 1995. We will remember him with love and devotion always. Wife Sonja and sons Sasha and Fedja.

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XMAS GREETINGS

SYLVIA BESTON-SIDEBOTTOM wishes all her family and friends a very happy christmas and a prosperous 1997.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HENRY Kennedy, 70 years of age, is asked to contact his brother in NYC, USA; immediately - very important.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Over the New Year period the following deadline will apply:-

Notices to appear on:-
Tuesday December 31, Wednesday January 1 and Thursday January 2
should be received in writing by 5pm on Friday December 27.

ALL NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION
Tel: 0171 782 7347
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OBITUARIES

MARCELLO MASTROIANNI

Marcello Mastroianni, Italian film star, died in Paris yesterday aged 72. He was born on September 28, 1924.

The career in films of the greatest of all Italian male stars lasted for almost fifty years, although it was not until he played the wry, womanising gossip writer around whom Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* (1960) whirled that he became internationally celebrated. Mastroianni brought to many of his roles, even in the lightest romantic comedies, a soulful langour, a sadness behind the eyes that women invariably found irresistible.

He was, in the words of the critic Alexander Walker, "a suitable case for care". He possessed the sort of self-mocking charm that had made Cary Grant a great star, together with the same kind of super-smooth, invisible technique that projected the comfortable illusion that his performances had evolved entirely naturally.

Marcello Mastroianni was born in Fontana Liri, a country village near Frosinone, to the southeast of Rome. His father was a cabinet maker who, when the boy was five, migrated to Turin, moving on from there a few years later to Rome.

As a youth, when the war started Mastroianni was studying surveying and draughtmanship. His ambitions to become an architect were dashed at 19 when the German occupiers sent him to a forced labour camp in the north of Italy. He managed to escape, and hid out for the duration in Venice, where he would draw pictures of its landmarks to sell for food.

When the war ended, he obtained a job in Rome with the accounts department of Eagle-Lion, a British film company that was a subsidiary of the Rank Organisation. In the evenings he began acting with university students, one of whom was Giuletta Masina, who was then already the wife of Federico Fellini.

His modest film debut was made in 1947, with a small part in one of the innumerable cinema versions of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, in this instance directed by Riccardo Freda, with Gino Cervi and Valentina Cortesa in the leads. In the following year he was offered a role in Luchino Visconti's stage production of *As You Like It*, which led to parts in other plays performed by his company.

Mastroianni's film career took off in 1949 with leading roles in films opposite Milly Vitale, Liliana Mancini and Gina Lollobrigida. For the next few years he was a young and handsome presence in a stream of Italian films that only occasionally were shown outside the domestic market.

This gave him the experience of working with actors such as Paola Stoppa, Raf Vallone and, significantly, the prewar matinee idol Vittorio De Sica. The latter became a powerful force in postwar Italian cinema and played Sophia Loren's father in *Peccato che sia una Canaglia* (1955), the first film on which Mastroianni worked with either of them. Visconti then signed Mastroianni to play the indigent young man who loves the mysterious Maria Schell in *White Nights* (1957), helping him towards his recognition outside Italy.

It was Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, a three-hour study of the decadent wasters of the Via Veneto smart set, that propelled Mastroianni to international stardom. Fellini declared that he had hired him because he had "a terribly ordinary face", but it was his face that gave him his appeal, with its weary expression that managed to be simultaneously passive and quizzical.

The box-office success ensured that he was now in huge demand, with the cream of leading ladies at his disposal: Claudia Cardinale in *Il Bell' Antonio* (1960); Simone Signoret in *Adua e le Compagne* (1960), Jeanne Moreau in Visconti's *La Notte* (1961). In *Divorce Italian Style* (1962) he received an Oscar nomination as a down-at-heel count who tries to murder his wife. An impressive hit, it was followed by Louis Malle's *Vie Privée* (1962) with Brigitte Bardot.

In 1963 he was the lead in Fellini's *8½*, playing an egocentric film director and ringmaster based on Fellini himself. Carlo Ponti then took a hand in Mastroianni's career and more international success followed with the delightful commercial comedies *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* and *Marriage Italian-Style* (both 1964) which were directed by Vittorio De Sica, with Ponti's wife, Sophia Loren as co-star. Mastroianni was in Visconti's Camus adaptation *The Stranger* (1967) and was under pressure to make an English-speaking film, although he was reluctant to go to Hollywood.

The unremarkable comedy *Diamonds for Breakfast* (1968) was made in England, and was followed by a sickly love story with Faye Dunaway, *A Place For Lovers* (1969), a failure for Vittorio De Sica. John Boorman's London film *Leo the Last* (1970) was much more interesting, but no more successful with audiences.

Mastroianni's command of English was then extremely shaky and he was obliged to recite his lines phonetically, giving his normally relaxed acting style a stilted air. He redeemed his popularity with Ettore Scola's black comedy *The Pizza Triangle* (1970). A few years later he would again be nominated for an Academy award for Scola's *A Special Day* (1977).

The best of his later roles included those in Paolo and Vittorio Taviani's *Allonsanfan* (1974); Fellini's *City of Women* (1979); as Casanova in Scola's *La Nuit de Varennes* (1981); as one half of a dancing partnership (with Guilita Masina) in Fellini's *Ginger and Fred* (1986); and in another Oscar-nominated performance in *Dark Eyes* (1987), which was directed by Nikita Mikhalkov. His aversion to American movies was eventually overcome with Beeban Kidron's *Used People* (1992) in which he appeared opposite Shirley MacLaine.

His penultimate film, *Beyond the Clouds*, directed by Michelangelo Antonioni and Wim Wenders, is due to open in Britain on January 10. Probably the last, piquant memory of him many filmgoers will have is of his appearance last year in Robert Altman's *Prêt-a-Porter*, looking weary and old but still handsome, and reunited with the still ravishing Sophia Loren. She performs a reprise of her famous bedroom striptease in *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* while he is recumbent on the bed, but by the time she has reached the second stocking he is fast asleep.

For half-a-century Mastroianni was constantly working, and made more than 150 films. Last May he was at the Cannes Film Festival introducing *Three Lives and Only One Death*, directed by Raul Ruiz, in which he played four parts. In the same film was his actress daughter Chiara Mastroianni, born to Catherine Deneuve in 1972.

There had been an uproar in the Italian press at the time when he deserted his wife Flora Carabella, whom he had married in 1950, and his daughter Barbara, to live with Deneuve. Both his daughters and Deneuve were at his bedside when he died.

ARTHUR JACOBS

Arthur Jacobs, music critic, died on December 13 aged 74. He was born on June 14, 1922.

ARTHUR JACOBS was a prolific music critic whose energies embraced journalism, lecturing, teaching, editing, biography and a series of highly regarded singing translations of operas.

Born in Manchester, he was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Merton College, Oxford. He began his career as music critic on the *Daily Express* in 1947, moving on to write for a wide variety of newspapers and journals, including *The Sunday Times, The Sunday Telegraph*, the *Financial Times* and the *Jewish Chronicle*, always in the brisk, clear style that was to characterise his work.

He was deputy editor of *Opera* magazine from 1961 to 1971, remaining a board member and a valued contributor until his death. From 1964 to 1979 he taught criticism and history at the Royal Academy of Music, before becoming Head of Music at Huddersfield Polytechnic until 1984 (when he was appointed Professor). He also found time to travel widely, acting as a visiting professor in various American, Canadian and Australian universities; latterly, he was several times a visiting fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford.

Jacobs's precision of mind made him a sound lexicographer, and his Penguin *New Dictionary of Music* (1958) went into several editions and translations. He also founded the invaluable *British Music Yearbook* in 1971, editing it until 1979. Other publications included *The Pan Book of Opera* (with Stanley Sadie, 1964), *A Short History of Western Music* (1972), *The Pan Book of Orchestral Music* (1987), and *The Penguin Dictionary of Musical Performers* (1990).

At the centre of his scholarly interests was English music, and he helped to deepen serious appreciation of A. S. Sullivan with *Gilbert and Sullivan* (1951) and with a meticulous biography, *Arthur Sullivan: a Victorian Musician* (1984). His last biography was a no less scrupulous study, *Sir Henry Wood: Maker of the Proms* (1994), in which his thorough research and keen probing enabled him to shed considerable new light on his subject.

Jacobs's devotion to opera found practical expression in the many performing translations he made. His linguistic gifts gave him an appreciation of the flavour of texts in languages that included Russian, and his sometimes quirky relish of word-play could produce ingenious and witty singing versions, with much theatrical point, of operas by Monteverdi, Rossini, Berlioz, Tchaikovsky and Berg, among others. An original libretto was *One Man Show* for Nicholas Maw (1964).

His advocacy of opera in English, as representing a genuine dramatic experience for audiences who might otherwise have been kept at a distance, was characteristically vigorous. This sharpness and forcefulness of mind could also take expression in sharpness of tongue, though invariably in what he saw as the interests of accuracy and proper standards of professional conduct; and it could quickly be belied by warmth and a lively sense of humour.

He retired to Oxford, where he took pleasure in renewing membership of his old undergraduate college, Merton. He married, in 1953, Betty Hughes; she and their two sons survive him.

YULI KHARITON

Yuli Khariton, Soviet nuclear physicist, died yesterday aged 92. He was born on February 27, 1904.

BORN in Tsarist Russia, Yuri Khariton lived to see the parabola of Soviet power, his greatest personal success coinciding with its apogee. When the first Soviet atom bomb was detonated in August 1949, Stalin's police chief Lavrenti Beria turned in joy to Khariton and Igor Kurchatov, two of its principal architects, and kissed them both on the forehead. Later Khariton contributed hugely to the success of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, though by then Beria — "a terrible man but an excellent organiser" — was no longer around to reward him. Khariton ended his life as he had spent the past 45 years, in charge of the Arzamas-16 research laboratory near Nizhny Novgorod.

Yuli Borisovitch Khariton was born into a Jewish family, the youngest son of a St Petersburg journalist and an actress in the Moscow Arts Theatre. "Compact, ascetically slight, and very sprightly," as a friend described him, he graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of Leningrad, as St Petersburg had become, in 1925, worked briefly on chemical chain reactions with Nicolai Semenov at "Fiztech" — the Institute of Physics and Technology in Leningrad — before travelling to Cambridge. This was the period when Soviet scientists were allowed abroad, and Khariton took advantage of the liberal climate to study under Ernest Rutherford. He was awarded his PhD in theoretical physics at the Cavendish Laboratory in 1927.

Returning to the Soviet Union through Germany, Khariton was disturbed by the stirrings of Fascism, and at the age of 24 was placed in charge of an explosives laboratory at the Institute of Physical Chemistry, a Fiztech spin-off. When the first reports of the discovery of nuclear fission reached the Soviet Union in 1939, Khariton and a younger colleague, Jakov Zeldovitch, began working on it. It was not part of their institute's task, so they studied in the evenings. "We immediately made calculations of nuclear chain reactions," Khariton later remembered, "and we soon understood that, on paper at least, a chain reaction was possible, a reaction which could release unlimited amounts of energy without burning coal or oil. Then we took it very seriously. We also understood that a bomb was possible."

Serious Soviet efforts to build a bomb began in 1942, after the first reports of Allied efforts had filtered through. Kurchatov was put in charge, initially at a research laboratory in Moscow, and later at Arzamas-16, the secret weapons design laboratory 200 miles to the east. But only on August 20, 1945, after the devastation of Hiroshima, did Stalin realise the global implications of nuclear fission. He gave the project high priority, putting Beria in control.

Then came a lucky break. The atom spy Klaus Fuchs provided descriptions of the American A-bomb. "The information was very helpful but also very difficult," Khariton said in 1993. "We had sketches, but we did not have all the calculations." The experiments done at Los Alamos had to be repeated, to make sure that Fuchs's material was genuine.

After fierce arguments, the team abandoned its own design and copied the American one, a decision Khariton supported. Work was shifted to a small town, Sarov, where Arzamas-16 was built. Khariton was appointed scientific director, and arrived on April 2, 1946, preceded by a detachment of secret policemen who had already staked out a stretch of forest with barbed wire. The town vanished from the maps, becoming the centre of the USSR's nuclear archipelago.

When the moment came to test the first device, Khariton was nervous. "If our first test had failed, you can imagine the pleasures that would have awaited us," he said. The test, however, was a complete success, sending shudders of horror through the West. Khariton acknowledged that the material from Fuchs had brought forward the explosion by two or three years. Two years later, indeed, a bomb made to the original Soviet design was exploded, equally successfully. It was only half as big, but had twice the yield.

The USSR was second to the atom bomb, but had caught up by the time of the first H-bomb tests. The first Soviet paper on the subject was written by Khariton and colleagues in 1946, but was brushed aside by Stalin and Beria, intent on the atom bomb. By 1949 the mood had changed and Yuri Sakharov was dispatched to Sarov to work with Khariton on an H-bomb design. This was Sakharov's "layer cake" design, involving alternating layers of uranium-238 and deuterium. Khariton was responsible for planning and organising the research needed to prove it would work. When it was successfully tested in October 1953, the USSR could legitimately claim to have the first practical thermonuclear weapon. The first US device, tested a year earlier, had been impracticably large.

Khariton was deeply proud of the achievements of the team under his control, and as an old man could recite them all. His eminence as a scientist and research director largely protected him from Beria's interference, though once he had to intervene on behalf of a colleague, Lev Altshuler, who was threatened with exile. Khariton called Beria and said that Altshuler was too valuable to lose. Beria paused, then said: "Do you need him very much?" Yes, replied Khariton. Beria paused again, then said "All right", and the incident was closed.

Khariton's wife and daughter predeceased him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 006833 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER of
WALON LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Notice is hereby given that a petition was on the 29th November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £11,000,000 to £10,237,000

And Notice is further given that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 15 January 1997.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 20th day of December 1996

STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St.Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Tel: 0171 329 4422
Ref: 719/232
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 006841 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER of WALON AUTOTRANSPORT LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Notice is hereby given that a petition was on the 29th November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £6,000,000 to £457,000.

And Notice is further given that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 15 January 1997.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 20th day of December 1996.

STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St. Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Tel: 0171 329 4422
Ref: 719/232
Solicitors for the above-named Company

COMPANY NUMBER 1766988
PRUDENTIAL-BACHE CAPITAL *FUNDING (EQUITIES) LIMITED*
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

On 10 December 1996 the above named companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 13 January 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.

Date 13 December 1996
AV Lomas
Liquidator

SMC DERIVATIVES LTD
("SMCD")
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2873568

On 12 December 1996 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman and Phillip Sykes of P O Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT were appointed Joint Liquidators by the Members. The Liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman and Phillip Sykes, P O Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT by 12 February 1997. The Liquidators also give notice under the provision of Rule 4.182(A)(6) that on 12 March 1997 they intend to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 12 February 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.

Date 16.12.96
P.R. SYKES
Joint Liquidator
M. FISHMAN
Joint Liquidator

No 006498 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF DALE FARM DAIRY GROUP LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 11 December 1996 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company in the amount of £166,306,199 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 16 December 1996.

Dated this 20th day of December 1996

ASHURST MORRIS CRISP
Broadwalk House
5 Appold Street
London EC2A 2HA
Solicitors for the Company
Ref SHD/N16202322/07311

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986.
RULE 4.106(1)
HOLTRONICS LIMITED
- In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation -

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Miss J E Stephenson, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Neville Russell, 24 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7NR, was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 9 December 1996. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Date: 10 December 1996
J E Stephenson
Liquidator

Notice to Creditors of Intention to Declare Dividend
In The High Court of Justice
No 105 of 1995
In the Matter of Habana Music Publishing Limited
formerly Team Habana Publishing Limited
and
In the Matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given that a first dividend is intended to be declared in the above matter.

All creditors should prove their debts and submit their claims by 24 January 1997. All proofs and claims should be forwarded to BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA quoting reference 7/dlm. Any creditor who does not prove their debt by 24 January 1997 will be excluded from this dividend which is to be declared within four months from the last date for proving.

Date: 11 December 1996
R Hocking
Supervisor

HILL SAMUEL (ST JAMES'S) LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1082756
INVESTMENT REGISTRY LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 78605
KEAMHURST DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 800858
REGMAY INVESTMENTS LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 754643
WOOD STREET FINANCE (NO 4) LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1997383
(ALL COMPANIES IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above companies intends to make a distribution to creditors within four months of 31 January 1997. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the Liquidator, Peter Joseph Balme, KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 31 January 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company. Notice is also given that the intended distribution to creditors will be the final distribution to creditors and that it will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the Liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.

Note: the companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.

Dated: 10 December 1996
PJ Balme - Liquidator

DEBBAGE & TUBBY LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Queen Street, Norwich, NR2 4ST on 30th December 1996 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act, viz:

a. To have laid before it a statement as to the affairs of the Company.
b. To nominate one or more Insolvency Practitioners as Liquidator or Liquidators.
c. If thought fit, to establish a Liquidation Committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at the offices of Larking Gowen at 7 Queen Street, Norwich, NR2 4ST between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm on 23rd and 24th December 1996. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting and who are not attending in person must lodge their proxies at 7 Queen Street, Norwich, NR2 4ST no later than 12 noon on 24th December 1996. A written statement of claim must also be lodged by all creditors wishing to vote at the meeting. For the purposes of voting only, a secured creditor is required to submit a statement giving particulars of his security, its value and the estimated unsecured balance of his debt.

Dated this 6th December 1996.
B.T. Tubby
Director

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.182(A)
Millbeam Limited (formerly Banner Limited)
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Mr Malcolm Cohen, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Messrs BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, was appointed Liquidator of the above named company following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the company on 12 December 1996.

The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182(A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details in writing of any claim against the company to the Liquidator at the above address by 20 January 1997. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182(A)(6) that he intends to make a distribution to creditors who, by 20 January 1997, have submitted their claims, otherwise a distribution will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. No further public advertisement or invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated: 12 December 1996
M Cohen
Liquidator
Note
This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.

LEGAL, PUBLIC,
COMPANY
& PARLIAMENTARY
NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BEADLE, JOSEPH KITCHENER BEADLE otherwise JOSEPH BEADLE late of Rastrick, West Yorkshire died Halifax, West Yorkshire on 1 December 1994
(Estate about £5,800)

CACKETT, ERIC ARTHUR CACKETT late of Harrow Weald, Middlesex died at South Harrow, Middlesex on 25 June 1989
Estate about £30,000

FLETCHER, STANLEY CHARLES FLETCHER late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 17 FEBRUARY 1996
(Estate about £9,500)

HALL formerly NUTTALL nee HELM, PHYLLIS HALL formerly NUTTALL nee HELM Widow late of Bournemouth, Dorset died there on 27 April 1996
(Estate about £14,000)

HARLOW, MABEL ELLEN HARLOW otherwise MABEL HARLOW Spinster late of Leicester, Leicestershire died there on 24 December 1995
(Estate about £10,200)

KEMP nee PRATT, EMILY KEMP nee PRATT Widow late of North Walsham, Norfolk died there on 8 April 1996
(Estate about £70,000)

LOVEKIN, CATHERINE MARY LOVEKIN Spinster late of Ealing, London W5 died at Harrow, Middlesex on 3 September 1995
(Estate about £5,100)

McCLEARY, JOHN McCLEARY late of Ashford, Middlesex died there on 5 May 1969
(Estate about £85,000)

O'CONNELL, BRIAN JOHN O'CONNELL late of Southwark, London SE1 died there on 13 October 1994
(Estate about £35,000)

POW, GRACE MARION POW Spinster late of Wells, Somerset died there on 19 March 1987
(Estate about £6,500)

WARBURTON, BRIAN WARBURTON late of Birmingham died there on 31 August 1995
(Estate about £8,000)

WILKINSON, MADELINE ISABELLE WILKINSON Spinster late of Enfield, Middlesex died there on 17 January 1996
(Estate about £43,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

ON THIS DAY

December 20, 1909

The present appalling state of affairs in what was formerly the Belgian Congo has its roots in the actions of King Leopold II of the Belgians (1835-1909) who not only plundered and mismanaged a rich territory but mistreated the native population.

THE DEATH OF KING LEOPOLD.

THE BODY TRANSFERRED
TO BRUSSELS.

BRUSSELS, DEC. 18

The body of the late King was transferred from the Pavillon des Palmiers at Laeken to the Palace at Brussels this evening by the light of torches carried by mounted troopers of a regiment of Guides. The hearse, which was drawn by eight horses, caparisoned in black draperies and harnessed *à la Daumont*, was covered with crape, surmounted by black plumes, and bore the national coat of arms and the coats of arms of the nine provinces. The grooms and servants of the late Sovereign surrounded the car. General officers of the army and of the Garde Civique rode on either side, and in Court carriages which followed, decked in heavy mourning trappings, were Prince Albert, Count Jean d'Oultremont, Grand Marshal of the Court, and the dignitaries of the King's Household. As the body was being conveyed to the hearse, salvoes were fired by batteries of artillery. An enormous crowd witnessed the scene. The *cortège*, which was preceded by a detachment of mounted *gendarmerie* and a squadron of Guides in full uniform, moved out of Laeken at 8 p.m. The escort of honour was provided by the Marie Henriette Squadron.

The procession arrived at the Palace at half-past 9. Non-commissioned officers of various corps of the garrison bore the body, on which lay the Royal crown, to a room which had been transformed into a *chapelle ardente*, where the civil and military authorities presented themselves.

The new King will take the name of Albert the First.

THE KING'S WILL.

King Leopold, in his will, declares that he possesses nothing beyond the 15,000,000f. (£600,000), which he leaves to his children. He refuses to allow an autopsy. "Apart from my nephew, Prince Albert," he says, "and the members of my household, I forbid any one to attend my funeral. My papers will be destroyed or handed to Prince Albert." Baron Goffinet is appointed executor.

According to the *Gazette*, the lawyer of Princess Louise has given notice to all the principal banks of opposition to any payment of deposits they may have received in the name of King Leopold or Baroness Vaughan, and has forbidden the executors under the late King's will to destroy any papers.

A SOCIALIST MANIFESTO.

BRUSSELS, DEC. 19

The General Council of the Belgian Labour Party issued this morning a proclamation containing the following passage:-

Under the reign which has now ended the old conception of a *bourgeois* Monarchy was profoundly changed. Twenty or 30 years ago the King was a mere symbol. With Leopold II the King became the great organiser of the political contest waged by capitalism against the working class. Albert I will govern, as his uncle did, with the aid of high finance, industry, and commerce. Between Socialism and the Monarchy no reconcilliation is possible. Vive la République Sociale!

[illegible]

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

NEWS

SAS team arrives at Lima siege

■ An SAS team arrived in Lima to join American security experts as the 484 hostages inside the Japanese ambassador's residence settled down for a third night with their 30 heavily armed Tupac Amarú captors.

The team of six from Hereford includes explosives experts and a sniper team commander. Hostage negotiators from Scotland Yard also flew in as talks between the Peruvian Government and the rebels moved slowly..............Pages 1, 11

Murder hunt police given more time

■ Magistrates granted police more time to question Robert Friar, a 35-year-old unemployed man who was arrested on Wednesday for questioning over the murders of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan as they walked home from Goodnestone Primary School in Kent..............Page 1

Duke apologises

The Duke of Edinburgh apologised for criticising government plans to ban handguns, saying he had no intention of causing offence or distress and was sorry if he had done so..............Page 2

Rape ignored

Residents of Chislehurst, southeast London, said they were astonished that rush-hour motorists did not stop to rescue a woman civil servant who was raped and beaten on a busy street.....Page 3

Oxbridge victory

Oxford and Cambridge both claimed victory in the four-yearly university research ratings, which will influence the distribution of £700 million of government money..........Pages 4, 17, 43

Dying breath

The BBC is considering filming the last moments of a dying man or woman for a series charting human life from the cradle to the grave..............Page 5

Appeal to Mandela

The father of a 28-year-old Briton killed by a traffic police officer in a KwaZulu/Natal coastal resort has written to President Mandela to ask for justice..............Page 6

Footballer's damages

A former Stockport County footballer was awarded an estimated £250,000 damages in the High Court over a high tackle which ended his career..............Page 7

Free speech ruling

Two murderers won a High Court victory when a judge ruled that jail restrictions on their access to visiting journalists were unlawful and curbed their right to free speech..............Page 8

Mastroianni dies

Marcello Mastroianni, the Italian film star, died in Paris from pancreatic cancer, aged 72. His many known mistresses included Catherine Deneuve, who was at his bedside..............Pages 9, 19

BB on racism charge

Brigitte Bardot was in court over claims that a newspaper article in which she said France was being overrun by sheep-slaughtering Muslims was an incitement to racial hatred..............Page 10

Gas pipeline plans

President Rafsanjani of Iran was greeted with full military honours when he arrived in Turkey for talks about a gas pipeline the two countries are to build......Page 10

Simple spymen

An American who spied for Moscow was arrested but nowadays spies are less interested in national security secrets than in the enemy's tradecraft..........Page 12

Barbie campaign

The Dynamic factory in Thailand, where Barbie dolls are made, is the target of an international campaign to get fairer conditions for workers..........Page 13

China's last imperial eunuch dies

■ Sun Yaoting, China's last surviving imperial eunuch, has died in a Buddhist temple in Peking where he lived out the final years of a life of discrimination and repression. He was 94 and served Pu Yi, China's last emperor, and his first wife after being born into a poor family, castrated at the age of eight and sent to the Forbidden City..............Page 13

JAYANTA SHAW/REUTERS

Mother Teresa, 86, leaving hospital in Calcutta yesterday after a heart operation and a month in intensive care. Page 13

BUSINESS

Merger bill: Halifax Building Society faces costs of £413 million for merging with the Leeds and floating on the stock market, or £46 for each borrower and saver...Page 21

Collapse: Dunn & Co, the menswear retailer specialising in hats and tweed, has collapsed for the second time in six years. KPMG was appointed receiver......Page 21

Damages: GKN, the engineering and defence group, faces a damages bill of about $400 million after an American exhaust subsidiary lost a class action suit........Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 27.5 points to close at 4045.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 94.4 to 94.1 after a fall from $1.6725 to $1.6630 and from DM2.5999 to DM2.5938... Page 24

SPORT

Cricket: Zimbabwe extended their first innings to 376 in the first Test in Bulawayo and then reduced England to 48 for the loss of Michael Atherton's wicket before rain stopped play..............Page 40

Football: Frank Clark resigned as manager of Nottingham Forest, who have gone 16 games without victory and are bottom of the FA Carling Premiership..........Page 40

Rugby union: Cardiff will have to play their Heineken Cup semi-final against Brive without significant match practice if the referees' strike in Wales continues..........Page 37

Sailing: The BT Global Challenge fleet suffered its first serious rig failure when *Concert* fell off a wave and lost her mast from about 20ft above the deck..........Pages 37, 40

[illegible]

Heritage plea: Instead of turning it into more offices, why not open up Admiralty Arch and the history it embodies to the public, Marcus Binney asks..............Page 29

British best: The Royal Ballet presents a stylish revival of Frederick Ashton's *Cinderella* that knocks spots off the Kirov's *Nutcracker* down the road...... Page 30

Back on top: After years in the twilight zone, the rock guitarist Peter Green, founder of Fleetwood Mac, is back performing live again..............Page 31

Going strong: She may be 57, but Tina Turner defies the passing years with a high-voltage show at Wembley Arena..............Page 31

Caitlin Moran: One day of ear-frazzling record joy ....Page 31

[illegible]

Secret India: Quentin Letts on the castrati of India — the hidden community that harks back to the days of the harem..............Page 14

Stage doctor: If he had completed his PhD thesis and become Dr John Sessions, perhaps he would not feel compelled to display his erudition; but then he would have been lost to the stage..........Page 15

Toy story: Parents in American toy stores are fighting over furry dolls which, when touched, squirm and emit funny noises. Tickle Me Elmo dolls are the unexpected success of the season..............Page 15

[illegible]

Research leaders: A *Times* guide to Britain's top universities for research .... Page 33

[illegible]

The Middle East is once again poised on the edge of an abyss. It has been obvious for months that Israel's Binyamin Netanyahu was not merely slowing the peace process down but strangling it altogether. A dream is dying in Palestine, and a new explosion in the region seems inevitable sooner or later — *La Repubblica*

France is not investing enough because it is paralysed by the fear of unemployment. If part-time jobs were as developed in France as they are in The Netherlands, there would be one million fewer people seeking work — *Le Figaro*

[illegible]

Preview: There are Christmas ructions at Arden House. *Dr Finlay* (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on a Delilah disaster movie..............Page 39

[illegible]

Speak, memory

This week Tony Blair took the trip down memory lane that John Major, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan have followed before him. The trip was not an unalloyed success ....Page 17

Dons and data

Even dons in the most ancient of universities will concede, through gritted teeth, that outside pressure has forced them to develop research strategies and deal with those staff members whose output has been inexcusably low or persistently poor..............Page 17

Everest of the spirit

Sir Ranulph Fiennes had to give up his latest quest to trek alone across Antartica, yet the disappointed explorer's failure has something heroic about it..............Page 17

[illegible]

ROGER SCRUTON

Do you remember the glorious days of Soviet communism, when each seat in the Soviet was contested by two candidates, both chosen by the Party? This is how the projected new bridge across the Thames was chosen..........Page 16

PHILIP HOWARD

The Speaker of Question Times Past was a handsome woman dressed in buckles and bows. She smiled at Stooge in a lofty but not unfriendly way. And as he grasped her tunic, they seemed to be whisked in an instant high up into the highest gallery of the debating chamber he knew so well, and where he continually strove to lead his party when he was not following it..............Page 16

OBITUARIES

Marcello Mastroianni, Italian film star; **Yuli Khariton**, Soviet nuclear physicist; **Arthur Jacobs**, music critic..............Page 19

LETTERS

Duke's views on gun legislation; university funding; the culture of litigation; CPS proposal on disclosures to the defence; Croatia and Bosnia; royal succession; road pricing..............Page 17

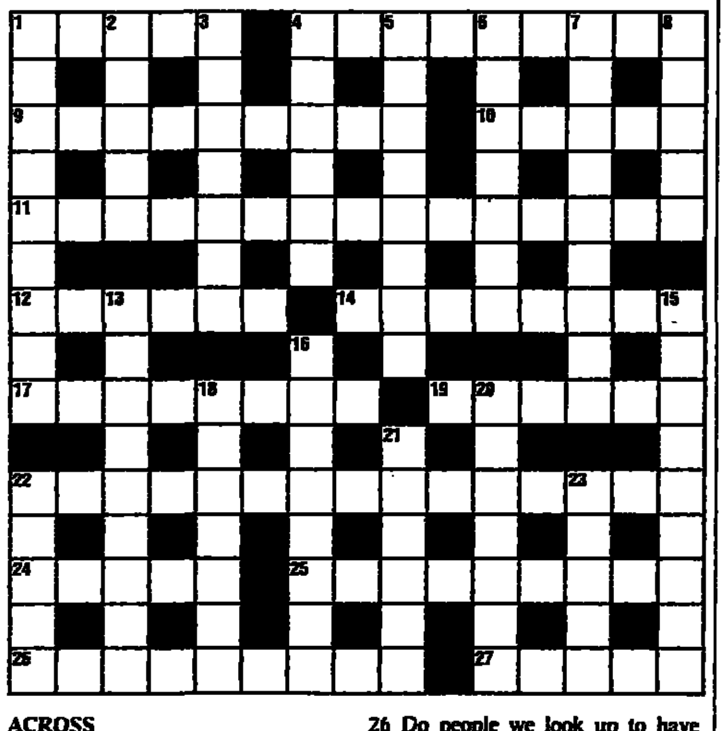
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ MAGAZINE
Debbie Reynolds (left), Elvis Presley and Peggy Lee in the top 100 easy listening hits

■ WEEKEND
Where early birds get the best bargains: a nationwide guide to the January sales

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,356



ACROSS

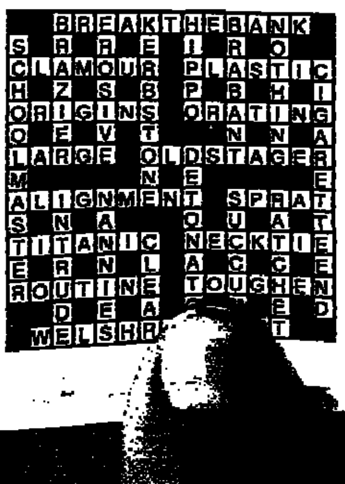
1 A bit of dissipation in the courtyard (5).
4 Reform involving double degree in one's university (4,5).
9 He provides clothing that's striking and more appropriate (9).
10 Dark horse ousting leader (5).
11 Though real crime is deplorable, it can produce great mirth (7,8).
12 Civilized old city destroyed by plague (6).
14 Water tortoise secure on land (8).
17 Tiny page disguised as Arab (8).
19 Feast the king found less colourful (6).
22 A girl usually expects to have such a hurried ceremony (7,8).
24 Musical group's love note produced in court (5).
25 Order this tape containing German or Italian course (9).
26 Do people we look up to have their support? (9).
27 Insect repelled round women's making a nasal sound (5).

DOWN

1 Not many people in this public institution (9).
2 Bear going over a mile to get to the Pole? (5).
3 Put off moronic old character (7).
4 As investigators stated, they are Mexican Indians (6).
5 Plastered, hit by droppings from on high (8).
6 One directing "The Silver King" is after leading male (7).
7 Sticky wicket — fast spinner's taken over (5,4).
8 A revolver, whichever way it points (5).
13 Spurned child put to bed? (9).
15 Tiny fish dominated by shark (9).
16 End up nursing girl, producing antacid (8).
18 Get stall set up outside for flowers (7).
20 It protects the head of conservative party (4,3).
21 Harsh cries given by mother birds (6).
22 Vessel in deep waters capsizing (5).
23 A new lot of paintings put up in empty chambers (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

Solution to Puzzle No 20,355



AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, 2C (36F); highest rainfall: Linton-on-Ouse North Yorkshire, 1.42in; highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland, 1.0hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995

FORECAST

☐ **General:** southern areas of England and Wales will be overcast, with outbreaks of light rain or drizzle, slowly clearing southwards but perhaps turning to sleet in places. The north will be bright, cold and dry, apart from flurries in the east. There will be a strong easterly wind.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be largely dry with bright or sunny intervals. Wintry flurries are likely in the east.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, SW England, S Wales:** overcast, outbreaks of light rain or drizzle, sleet in places, slowly clearing from north later. Winds light to moderate, northeast. Colder. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **E and NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** sunny intervals and wintry flurries. Winds fresh or strong, easterly. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, NW England and Central N England:** overcast, rain or drizzle, with sleet or snow over hills. It will become brighter slowly from the north. Wind fresh or strong, easterly. Cold. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Channel Isles:** cloudy, patchy drizzle, winds light easterly. Mild. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** bright or sunny, mainly dry. Frosty early and late with risk of patchy fog. Wind stiff, easterly. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday:** all areas cold, bright and generally dry. Further wintry flurries likely in east.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

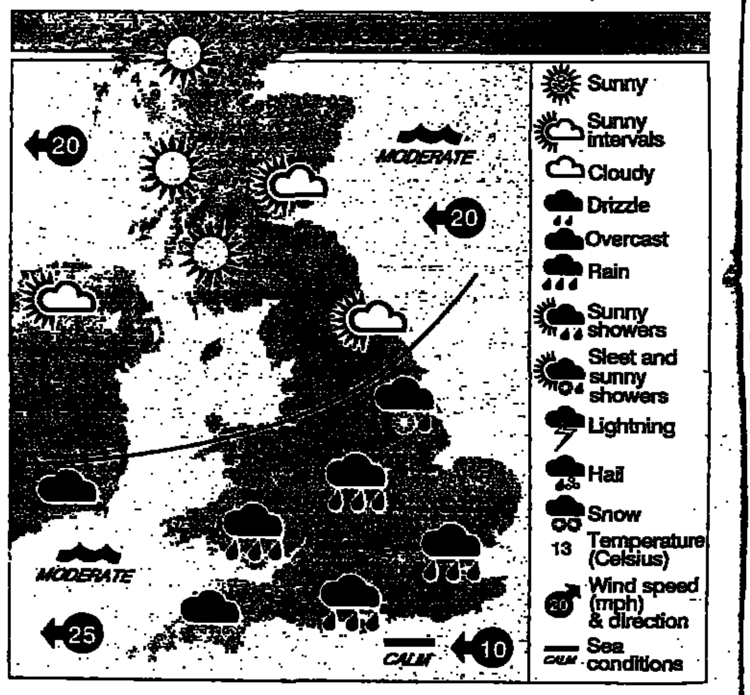
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	4	39	c	Littlehmptn	-	0.07	10	50	d
Aspatria	-	0.50	4	39	r	London	-	0.13	9	48	d
Aviemore	0.1	0.01	2	36	c	Lowestoft	-	0.52	7	45	r
Belfast	-	0.01	6	43	du	Manchester	-	0.85	7	45	r
Birmingham	-	0.88	7	45	r	Margate	-	0.27	10	50	fg
Bognor R	-	0.06	9	48	du	Minehead	-	0.02	8	46	fg
Bournem'th	-	0.02	9	48	fg	Morecambe	-	0.74	5	41	r
Bristol	-	0.08	9	46	du	Newcastle	-	0.65	5	41	r
Buxton	-	1.06	4	39	sl	Newquay	-	0.02	10	50	c
Cardiff	X					Norwich	-	0.77	7	45	r
Clacton	-	0.24	8	46	c	Oxford	-	0.38	8	46	r
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	0.01	11	52	du
Colwyn Bay	-	0.26	6	43	r	Poole	-	0.07	10	50	c
Cromer	-	0.86	6	43	r	Prestatyn	X				
Eastbourne	-	0.09	11	52	c	Ross-o-wye	-	0.27	8	46	r
Edinburgh	-	0.28	5	41	r	Salcombe	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.62	2	36	sn	Sandown	0.2	0.09	10	50	r
Exmouth	0.2	0.04	9	48	d	Saunton Snd	-	0.03	10	50	du
Falmouth	-	0.01	11	52	c	Scarboro'	-	1.25	3	37	r
Fishguard	-	0.04	8	46	fg	Shanklin	0.4	0.05	10	50	fg
Folkestone	-	0.17	10	50	du	Shrewsbury	-	0.72	7	45	r
Glasgow	-	0.56	5	41	f	Skegness	-	0.67	7	45	r
Guernsey	-	0.01	12	54	c	Southend	X				
Hastings	-	0.09	10	50	d	Southport	-	0.72	6	43	r
Hayling I	-	0.03	9	48	d	Southsea	-	0.07	9	48	c
Hove	-	-	9	48	du	Stornoway	0.3	-	5	41	c
Hunstanton	-	0.70	7	45	r	Swanage	-	0.08	9	48	c
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	-	0.08	9	48	c
Isle of Man	-	0.01	7	45	c	Tiree	0.1	0.43	6	43	r
Jersey	-	0.04	11	52	c	Torquay	-	0.04	9	48	c
Kinloss	0.7	-	3	37	b	Tynemouth	-	0.34	5	41	c
Leeds	-	1.35	7	45	r	Ventnor	0.9	0.09	11	52	c
Lerwick	1.0	0.01	4	39	b	Weston-s-mare	-	0.32	8	46	du
Leuchars	-	0.21	5	41	sh	Weymouth	-	0.07	9	48	c

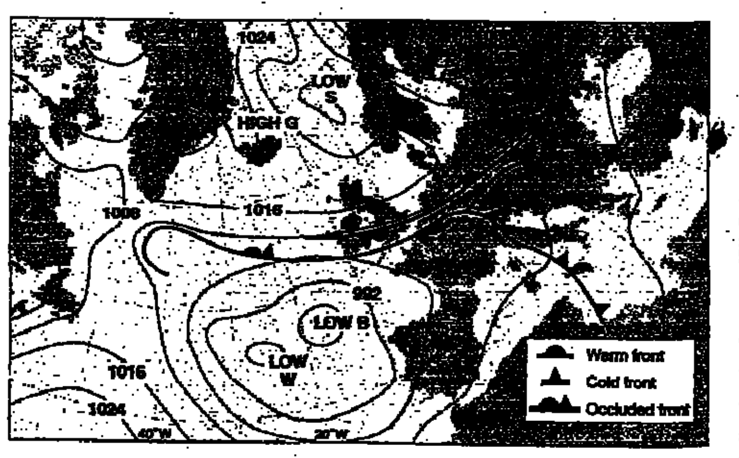
ABROAD

Ajaccio	14	57	s	Corfu	14	57	c	Majorca	16	61	c	Rome	14	57	s
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	3	37	fg	Malaga	15	59	r	S Fr'isco	11	52	f
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Dublin	11	52	c	Malta	16	61	f	S Paulo	25	77	c
Algiers	22	72	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Melb'rne	17	63	c	Salzburg	5	41	c
Amst'dm	6	43	d	Faro	17	63	f	Mexico C	13	55	s	Santiago	17	63	s
Athens	14	57	r	Florence	13	55	f	Miami	26	79	f	Seoul	-3	27	s
B Aires	25	77	s	Frankfurt	5	41	d	Milan	7	45	fg	Sing'por	29	84	f
Bahrain	22	72	s	Funchal	X	X	X	Montreal	5	41	c	St'kholm	-7	19	f
Bangkok	29	64	f	Geneva	9	48	s	Moscow	-6	21	sn	Strasb'rg	11	52	f
Barbados	X	X	X	Gibraltar	15	59	c	Munich	7	45	c	Sydney	19	66	c
Barcelona	14	57	r	Helsinki	-8	18	s	N Delhi	X	X	X	Tangier	17	63	c
Beirut	19	66	s	Hong K	20	68	f	N York	12	54	c	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Belgrade	10	50	c	Innsbrck	3	37	f	Nairobi	26	79	s	Tenerife	20	68	f
Berlin	2	36	c	Istanbul	13	55	s	Naples	X	X	X	Tokyo	13	55	r
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	12	54	s	Toronto	1	34	c
Biarritz	14	57	r	Jo'burg	26	79	f	Oslo	-3	27	sn	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	12	54	f	L Angels	X	X	X	Paris	11	52	c	Valencia	13	55	c
Brussels	10	50	f	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	1	34	s	Vanc'ver	1	34	c
Budapest	1	34	c	Le Touqt	10	50	f	Perth	31	88	s	Venice	6	43	f
Cairo	22	72	s	Lisbon	16	61	f	Prague	3	37	c	Vienna	2	36	c
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Locarno	8	46	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	s	Warsaw	2	36	f
Ch'church	X	X	X	Luxembg	7	45	c	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wash'ton	10	50	c
Chicago	-11	12	f	Luxor	24	75	s	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Cologne	7	45	s	Madrid	13	55	d	Riyadh	25	77	s	Zurich	10	50	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: high G will drift slowly S towards Britain; low S will move SE and lose its identity; lows W and B will move slowly W



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9:38	6.4	10:18	6.6	Leith	10:50	4.9	11:12	5.0
Aberdeen	9:52	3.8	10:05	3.9	Liverpool	7:21	8.0	7:46	8.3
Avonmouth	2:57	10.9	3:31	11.3	Lowestoft	5:14	2.3	6:15	2.3
Belfast	7:20	3.2	7:43	3.3	Margate	7:52	4.2	8:42	4.3
Cardiff	2:42	10.3	3:14	10.6	Milford Haven	2:10	5.8	2:40	6.0
Devonport	1:35	4.7	2:02	4.8	Newquay	1:05	5.7	1:33	5.9
Dover	7:07	5.9	7:53	5.8	Oban	2:02	3.1	2:45	3.4
Dublin (N Wall)	8:02	3.8	8:16	3.8	Penzance	0:41	4.6	1:08	4.8
Falmouth	1:04	4.4	1:29	4.7	Portland	2:24	1.6	2:50	1.8
Greenock	8:38	3.1	9.13	3.2	Portsmouth	7:24	4.3	7:56	4.1
Harwich	7:29	3.5	8:13	3.6	Shoreham	7:20	5.4	7:58	5.3
Holyhead	6:40	4.9	6:57	5.1	Southampton	6:51	4.2	7:22	4.0
Hull (Albert D)	1:47	6.7	2:39	6.8	Swansea	2:11	7.8	2:46	8.1
Ilfracombe	1:50	7.6	2:27	7.9	Tees	-	-	12:06	4.6
King's Lynn	2:04	5.9	2:45	5.7	Walton-on-Naze	7:30	3.7	8:11	3.8

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.04 am
Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon sets 3.01 am
Moon rises 1.32 pm
Full moon December 24

London 3.53 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.13 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.42 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.23 am
Penzance 4.22 pm to 8.19 am

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